NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

No. XXXIX.

NEW SERIES, NO. XIV.

APRIL 1823.

ART. XVI.—*Notizie varie sullo stato presente della Republica degli Stati Uniti dell' America settentrionale, scritte, al principio del* 1818, *dal Padre Giovanni Grassi, della compagnia di Gesù.* Edizione seconda. Milano, 1819.

A BOOK of travels in the United States, written by a Jesuit, published at Rome, and reprinted at Milan, is in itself a novelty not to be passed over without notice. These are not the only peculiarities of the publication now under consideration. It is recommended by a still more extraordinary circumstance: it is a *pamphlet*. This we mention as matter of congratulation to our readers, not doubting that they will fully participate in the complacency with which, after the scores of folios, quartos, and octavos we have had to grapple withal, we hail the appearance of this literary anomaly, 'a pamphlet of travels.' They need not to be reminded that amplification is the crying fault of writers of the present day. So rare, indeed, is the opposite quality become, that we are almost ready to pronounce the '*densus et brevis*' in composition, like charity among the virtues, the sum and substance of all excellence. We may, however, solace ourselves with the reflection, that the fault we complain of is not peculiar to our own times; at least we may infer as much from the practice of those sturdy reviewers, the curate and barber in Don Quixote, who have left us an admirable sample of practical criticism. We are informed that these worthies, after having condemned a great number of

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

authors, one by one, to the flames, at length, ' without giving themselves the trouble of reading any more titles, ordered the housekeeper to dismiss *all the large books* into the yard.' We do not intend to hint that it will ever become expedient to purge our modern libraries after the manner of these primitive critics, but merely to premise, that if we are more indulgent to this ' little book,' than strict justice would seem to require, we think it a sufficient apology, that it does not offend in the particular above mentioned.

Father Grassi, the author of this treatise, resided some years in the United States, in the capacity of superior of the Catholic seminary at Georgetown in the District of Columbia. On his return he was persuaded by his friends to publish the result of his observations, with a view, as his editor expresses it, ' to give an idea of the rapid progress that country is already making in commerce, population, manufactures, *the Catholic religion*, and every other species of improvement.' This last topic and the subjects connected with it occupy a large portion of the book; the remainder being principally made up of very general statements relating to the climate, soil, and productions of the United States, taken from the common statistical tables, and from a letter of our obliging countryman, Dr Mitchell. These are interspersed with such personal observations as the reverend author had opportunity to make within the limits of the District of Columbia—for he does not appear to have extended his researches far beyond them—together with the gossip of the vulgar, which he has adopted with a degree of credulity altogether surprising. We have had our doubts, so extravagant are some of the absurdities detailed by father Grassi, whether he had himself been duped, or had a mind to make his countrymen a little merry at our expense. The latter conclusion would have been the most desirable, as being more honorable to the writer, and by no means offensive to ourselves, for we are so much the friends of good humor, as to be ready to forgive it under almost any shape. But the profession of the author and the grave character of the work forbad this interpretation. We leave it to our readers to determine, from the translations we propose to give of certain portions of the book, what foundation there is for the first supposition. The coarse jests and broad caricatures, which the good father has, with overweening simplicity, retailed, are not

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

quoted either for their novelty or spirit. We have thought it not amiss, however, to take this opportunity to show how much of the misrepresentation we impute to foreigners is the reflected picture, which in the excitement of party animosity or local prejudice, we have drawn of ourselves. While the various sects, religious and political, as well as the different sections of our country, are but too willing to paint their neighbors in ridiculous, not to say odious colors, it should not be matter of surprise or complaint, that their distorted portraits are copied by the credulous or illiberal traveller, to the infinite disadvantage of our national character. That the feelings of father Grassi are unfriendly to us, as a nation, we are far from believing; on the contrary, his observations, on points where his religious prejudices do not operate, denote an artlessness of character quite inconsistent with such a presumption. The following remarks will perhaps excite a smile.

'In respect of food, I can truly say, that after having been in most of the countries of Europe, in my judgment, the mass of the people is no where better provided for than in America, where both flesh and fish are very abundant. The French, who have been there, have justly observed, that in the United States one sees literally fulfilled the wish, which did so much honor to Henry IV of France, who was used to declare, "that he should not think himself happy until each of his subjects had every Sunday a fowl in the pot." I cannot say that this country is equally well furnished in the article of drink, which consists of *whiskey* (a sort of brandy,) rum, and other distilled spirits, mixed with water. Wine is very dear, and beer exceedingly rare.' p. 10.

This reminds us of the remark we have somewhere seen of a French traveller in Ireland:—'Le vin ordinaire de ce pays-ci,' he observes, 'est un boisson execrable, que l'on appelle *viski*.'

After some further remarks on the productions and resources of the United States, the author proceeds to state generally the number of inhabitants, and then adds:

'About a seventh part of the actual population are negroes, who are held in slavery, in open contradiction to one of the first articles of the general constitution of this republic, which declares freedom to be a privilege inherent in man, and inalienable. It cannot be denied, however, that there are many power-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ful reasons against granting liberty to the blacks in a mass. It must not be supposed, that the shores of the American republic are at this day disgraced by the inhuman spectacle of ships discharging cargoes of the miserable victims of human avarice. The present race of negroes in the United States are the descendants of those Africans, who in former times were transported from their native country to the colonies of the New World. The importation of slaves from abroad is now prohibited under severe penalties, but nevertheless, the internal traffic in these unhappy beings still continues. Men are sold to their fellow men, and in the land of liberty, we but too often hear the mournful clank of servile chains. In many states the negroes are kindly treated, and better fed than the peasants of Europe, but in many others they are left in a total ignorance of religion; no attention is paid to their morals; they are never baptized, nor joined in the holy bands of wedlock. The sordid master asks but their labor, and then leaves them like brutes to the blind impulse of their passions, and to follow vices and superstitions that exceed belief. This applies principally to the southern states; in the more northern ones, slavery is abolished, and the example begins by degrees to be imitated elsewhere.' p. 17.

As a counterpart to the foregoing, we shall translate a sketch from the north, which occurs afterwards in describing the character of the people of our country.

'Among the inhabitants of the United States, those of New England are regarded as thorough knaves, practised in the most artful deception, and are nicknamed *Yankis*. The great number of small dealers, who distribute themselves from this quarter into all the other states, and resort to every art and device to get money, has brought this reputation upon the Yankis, an appellation which the English bestow indiscriminately on all Americans. It is very certain,' adds the doctor, 'that to deal with this sort of people, requires no little shrewdness and a pretty exact acquaintance with their laws in relation to contracts. But it seems to me,' he adds with an appearance of candor, which we fear he did not learn at Georgetown, 'it seems to me unjust to apply a reproach, which belongs to individuals, or at most to a class of persons, to all the inhabitants of those states.' p. 29.

After the preceding samples, the reader will not be entirely unprepared for the following description of American manners.

'The unrestrained freedom which obtains, the drunkenness which abounds, the rabble of adventurers, the great number of

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

negro slaves, the almost infinite variety of sects, and the little real religion that is met with, the incredible number of novels that are read, and the insatiate eagerness for gain, are indeed circumstances, that would hardly give reason to expect much in point of manners. At first view, however, one is not aware of the depravity of this country, because it is hidden for a time under the veil of an engaging exterior. But it is not difficult to discern it, when a little familiar with the inhabitants, particularly in the cities. The vices of gaming and drunkenness prevail there to a degree altogether incredible in Italy, and frequently prove fatal in their consequences, not only to the individual, but to whole families. Their general intercourse is civil, but notwithstanding this civility, not a few among them commit frequent breaches of good manners. To pare the nails, for instance, or comb the head in company; to sit with the feet resting on the nearest chair, or braced against the wall in the air, are not considered indecorous. When a stranger is introduced into company, he is pointed out by name, and presented in turn to each individual present. Friends who meet, even after an absence of many years, never embrace, but merely shake hands. Mothers have the laudable habit of nursing their own children, a custom which would be still more praiseworthy, if performed with a little more reserve. The richest individuals do not disdain to hold the plough or the spade in their own fields, and to take their meals with the laborers. Luxury in dress is carried to a degree hardly known in Europe; they dress in the country with the same expense as in town, and on holidays rich clothing forms not the smallest indication of the circumstances of the wearer.

'Dancing is the most common recreation in America, where the passion for this diversion seems to be even as strong as in France. An absurd point of honor gives rise to frequent duels, and to evade the rigor of the laws, the parties retire to the frontiers of some neighbouring state for the purpose of deciding their quarrels in this barbarous, shocking, and superstitious manner, in which the aggressor is frequently triumphant, and the injured party has the satisfaction to be left wounded, crippled, or perchance dead.' p. 30.

We take from the author's remarks on education those which relate to the female sex.

'The education of young ladies rarely consists in learning the use of the needle or the spindle, or in working linen or woollen stuffs; but as soon as they are taken from the English school, they never fail to learn to dance, and sometimes a few lessons in music, drawing, and perhaps French complete their education.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

It is of no moment that this is forgotten in the course of a few weeks. Their vanity is satisfied in being able to say that they have studied music, drawing, and French.'—p. 25.

From the observations on literature we select those which relate to public speaking, as the most remarkable.

'Greek and Latin are generally cultivated, but with very few exceptions, not in a sufficient degree to give a perception or taste for the beauties of the great masters of Greece and Italy, otherwise could it be possible that in the public prints they should boast of the Columbiad of Barlow, as a poem equal, nay superior, to Homer and Virgil, and the speeches of their representatives as models of eloquence infinitely above those of Demosthenes and Cicero?* It is not to be denied, that the Americans express themselves with great facility and elegance, and sometimes display fine traits of real eloquence. In short, after gold, this is their idol; but of the various branches which, according to the greatest masters, make up the art of speaking well, elocution is the one on which they bestow the greatest care. Provided a speaker or writer deals in choice expressions, elegant phrases, and harmonious periods, nothing more is required to stamp him as a great orator, however deficient he may be in the richness of invention, felicity of thought, weight of sentiment, force of argument, accuracy of arrangement, and command of the passions, which would be required elsewhere.'—p. 39.

In the foregoing extracts, the reader has found little to flatter national vanity; but we have translated them, not only with a view to show how much injustice may be done with the most honest intentions, but because we think his discrimination will discern, through a great deal of prejudice and misapprehension, not a little wholesome truth. It cannot be necessary to comment upon this part of father Grassi's treatise. If we feel that any of his strictures are just, we have only to profit by them, and where we know them to be otherwise, it can give little satisfaction to ourselves, and will add nothing to our real merit, to refute them. We now proceed to notice the reverend author's observations on the religious character of the United States; and here we are sorry to be obliged to say,

* It were well if this rodomontade were confined to newspapers, but strangers may well call our taste in question when they see a grave biographer quote, as a most happy illustration of the powers of a late distinguished southern orator, what was said of him by another orator from the same state, namely, that 'he was Shakspeare and Garrick combined.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

that on this subject, although he loses none of his credulity, he leaves all his candor and moderation behind him. It must not be supposed that, at this period of the world, we look for a great degree of either of the above qualities in theological discussions. But we own we did not expect to see stale jokes from the jest books brought out and gravely applied in illustration of the religious character of a nation. We admit that, if one half the abuse which father Grassi complains of has been bestowed upon the Catholics by the American protestants, the account stands pretty fairly balanced between them. This, however, is not to our present purpose, and we do not intend to enter into the controversy any further than to explain the feelings which dictated the following statements. After bestowing due praise on the perfect toleration, which is not only professed but observed in the United States, he proceeds to remark:

"Among the peculiarities of America which have attracted the notice of travellers, few are more striking than, that people frequently live for years together without ever knowing the religion of each other, and when interrogated upon that point they do not answer, *I believe*, but I was *brought up* in such a sect or religion. But in order to give a better idea of the consideration in which religion is held, I shall state a few facts. There was a regiment stationed at Georgetown, a suburb of the flourishing city of Washington, and among other regulations the soldiers were required to attend church every sabbath. But as they were of various persuasions, it was difficult to determine what church or congregation they should attend. So the affair was compromised in the following way. They went the first Sunday to the Catholic Chapel, the next to the Methodists, on the third to the English, then to the Calvinists, and so on through them all in succession. It is not uncommon to find persons who have professed all the *sects*, and the reasons for these changes are diverting enough. A young lady related of herself, that she took it into her head that that must needs be the best religion whose professors were the most genteel folks in the city. She was brought up in I know not what sect, but observing every Sunday a greater number of carriages before the congregational meeting-house than any where else, she forthwith became a Congregationalist. Her parents changed their place of residence, and she her religion, because she observed more carriages near the English Church. The family again removed, and by the standard of carriages she was again converted. At length she was

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

married, and took the creed of her husband. It is not uncommon to see parents who do not think it best to instruct their children in the principles of Christianity, but are satisfied with giving them notions of natural honesty, observing, that the children at the proper time can choose the sect that shall be most to their taste; accordingly, you may frequently see in a family as many sects as individuals. In New England the sects are more rigid than elsewhere, consequently various superstitions and vain observances are there most in vogue, and the *Sticks Doctors*, or 'doctors of the rods,' find here the greatest encouragement for their impositions."—p. 63.

What particular class of dignitaries is intended by father Grassi under the English name of *Sticks Doctors*, or '*dottori dalle bacchette*,' we are entirely unable to conjecture, although we have run over all the titles of honor in law, physic, and divinity, in which, thanks to the liberality of our literary institutions, we may hold up our heads with any nation, ancient or modern. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to furnish an explanation for themselves.

'Notwithstanding,' continues our author, 'the indifference which prevails among these various sects, there appears, particularly at the north, a great display of piety. Every body reads the bible, and in New-England no traveller, not excepting a courier, is allowed to proceed on his journey on Sunday, and they are every year presenting memorials to Congress to prohibit travelling on the Lord's day. The captain of the vessel in which I sailed from America to Europe, would not allow the passengers to play at *Domino*, nor sing on the Sabbath, at the same time that he permitted all sorts of indecency and profanity among the sailors, and happening to arrive in port on a Sunday morning, he kept them hard at work all day without the smallest necessity. Anciently the observance of fasts at the north was carried to a most extravagant height. There still remain in several states laws relating to religious worship, which insist strongly on the observance of the third commandment. These laws, though still in existence, are not now strictly enforced, and are called Blue Laws, of which the following may serve as a specimen. 'To the end that the Sabbath may be more exactly observed, it is enjoined on those who intend to go to church, to saddle their horses the day before. On fast days the ladies will not be permitted to scour the floor, make the beds, or comb the children's heads—No beer to be made on the Saturday, lest it should work on the Sunday.'"—p. 68.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

We regret that the wag who furnished the doctor with these extracts should have given him so poor a sample of this venerable code, for we think there is scarce a lad of any cleverness among us who would not have been able to invent a better. Having displayed a general view of the state of religion among us, father Grassi attempts to enumerate the different sects in the United States, which he names in Italian as follows: Congregazionalisti, Metodisti, Anglicani, Presbiteriani, Anabaptisti, Universalisti, Unitari, Luterani, Puritani, Quacqueri, Dunkers e Chrystiani. All these are passed upon in turn, with appropriate denunciations, and the author then proceeds to consider the style of preaching in our country.

'The passion for elegant preaching is universal in this nation, and some traveller has remarked, that religion here reduces itself into the mere fondness for fluent preachers. Hence the great end of their ministers is preaching, that is to say, a polished diction, which flatters and sooths the ear; their sermons are more commonly the essays of philosophers, than the discourses of Christian pastors, and not unfrequently political rhapsodies, suited to the taste of the majority of the audience. They affect an air of great indifference, to which they give the plausible name of liberality towards other sects, but commonly conclude with "my hearers, stick to your own." That the Catholic religion is the only one which rarely participates in their liberality, will not appear strange to those who are acquainted with them. It is indeed matter of surprise, that men of honest principles, and some of them not without sense and information, should persist in the grossest prejudices and the most absurd errors in regard to the Catholic religion. Our astonishment will subside, however, when we reflect, that in addition to the force of education, and early impressions, the circumstances of the American protestants are very different from those of the German and English. In these countries the walls of their temples, the inscriptions on the tombs of their ancestors, the sacred relics that are preserved, the many monuments which still exist, the books that are in his hands remind the protestant that he has renounced the religion of his fathers, and reproach him as it were with his heresy and apostacy. But in America, there is nothing of all this—all is new, and in many parts they have heard nothing for two hundred years but a repetition of the prejudices and calumnies against the Catholics, which their fathers have handed down to them; there, a catechism is never seen; there, so much as a Catholic preacher is never heard.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Had our author confined himself to remarks like the foregoing, we should not have thought him deserving of very serious reprehension. That a stranger, particularly a native of a Catholic country, should be surprised, not to say scandalized, at the little regard that is here paid to the established modes of belief, and the apparent indifference that prevails as to forms of worship, is not wonderful. We admit the fact, and are by no means prepared to repel the censure. It is one of the evils incident to unlimited toleration. We should be glad to find as good an apology for the insertion of low and vulgar abuse, which is applied to particular sects merely on the authority of some prating story-teller, or scandalous newspaper. We select an instance from his account of the Methodists.

'I have seen in print the following dialogue between a shopkeeper and his domestic, both Methodists. *William*, have you sanded the sugar, lad? Yes, sir. Have you watered the spirit? Yes, sir. Have you wet the tobacco well? Yes, sir.—Come to prayers, then.'

We shall take two other anecdotes of the same character, which we think will suffice.

'Three years ago a minister of the Church of England in Maryland, substituted cider (a liquor made of apple juice) for wine in the ceremony of the Lord's Supper. The fraud being afterwards detected, and charged upon him, he replied with the utmost coolness, "that wine was dear, and it was all the same thing." One of their ministers confessed candidly, that the Catholic religion was the true one, but he had four strong objections to it. Pray what are they? he was asked. A wife and three children to support, was his reply.'

We believe our readers are by this time pretty well apprized of what father Grassi considers canonical. His doctrine of reform is simple, if it has no other recommendation. If his word may be taken, our course is plain before us, and but one thing is wanting to draw us from the depths of barbarism and heresy to the safe ground of orthodoxy and refinement. We cannot but respect the zeal of father Grassi, and have no doubt he is perfectly sincere in his professions. We are really afraid, however, that Martin and Jack are not yet prepared to take it for truth, even upon the assurance of Peter, 'that bread contains the quintessence of beef, mutton, veal, venison, partridge, plum pudding, and custard.' The work closes with an ac-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

count of the various Catholic establishments, and a general view of the progress and present state of that religion in this country. The following description of their principal seminaries and religious houses is not without interest.

'The fathers of the society of Jesus, besides their missions, have in Georgetown, near Washington, in a charming situation, a College for the education of youth, which was authorised by an act of the first of March, 1815, to confer academical degrees, as is done by other colleges and universities in this country. It is owing to a want of students that this order has not kept up the school they opened at New York, under the title of the Literary Institution, where they still own the building destined to that use. The priests of St Sulpice have a respectable college at Baltimore, on which the Legislature of Maryland has bestowed the privileges of an university. They have also a house of education at Emitzburg. The English Dominicans have a convent in Kentucky, with a school and church under the title of St Rosa di Lima, and in 1816 had four students in theology, besides a few probationers. Several gentlemen have lately arrived from Italy in the western states, from the mission of St Vincenzo di Paolo, and are only waiting the arrival of the bishop of New Orleans to commence an establishment. There are, besides these, several other religious communities in America, the most ancient of which is the nunnery of mendicant Carmelites, of the reform of St Teresa. Three nuns of this order had the courage to leave their English convent at Antwerp, and cross the great Atlantic to establish a nunnery here; in a few years their numbers increased to twenty-six. Their nunnery, which is entirely of wood, is situated near Port Tobacco in Maryland. Archbishop Neal, full of zeal for the education of youth, has established in Georgetown a society of nuns of the visitation, who superintend the religious education of little girls. In a short time this society increased to the degree, that last summer it consisted of thirty-six nuns. Another establishment for the same object has been founded by the abbé Dubois in Emitzburg. Some of these sisters have gone from Emitzburg to Philadelphia, where they have the care of a foundling hospital, whose little inmates they lead on holy festivals in good order sometimes to one church, and sometimes to another, to the great delight and edification of the public, and with some advantage to the charity, which is supported by the alms of Catholics and several benevolent protestants. The truly zealous abbé Nerinx has founded a nunnery in Kentucky, which is called the "Sisterhood of Mary at the foot of the Cross." Lastly, the abbé Their, [Thayer?] who from a Calvinistic preacher became a

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Catholic at Rome, and died lately in Ireland, has left a fund sufficient to establish in Boston, his native place, a convent of Ursulines for the education of young women.'

This relation will give some idea of the exertions the Catholics have been and are still making to diffuse their doctrines in this country. The return of his holiness to Rome, after his unhappy and atrocious exile, seemed a fit occasion to be signalized by a reform in the church, and an attempt to restore its tottering authority. One of the first steps towards the attainment of this object was the revival of the order of Jesuits, which had by its zeal, perseverance, and admirable discipline added greatly to the influence and grandeur of the church. The persecuted remnant of this once powerful order, which had survived their day of adversity, repaired to the holy see, and soon evinced by their ardor and industry, that they had not lost their distinguishing characteristics. The other orders and religious communities, which had been dispersed by the French, were reassembled, and the affairs of the church assumed a tone of spirit and animation to which they had been long unaccustomed. Nor was this excitement confined to the restoration of the establishment in Italy, or even in Europe. The effects of it have extended themselves to our own country, where the missionaries from Rome have been active and vigilant. Their efforts, as we have already seen, and the experience of every day convinces us, have not been without success. How far they may continue to be successful, we are unable to foresee, nor do we think it of much moment to inquire. Although we do not expect from their labors the golden harvest which father Grassi seems to promise himself, we are still far from regarding them with the apprehension and anxiety, which some of our fellow citizens appear to entertain. The assertion of father Grassi is certainly in a degree true, that there has heretofore existed in this country an unwarrantable prejudice against Catholics, which (we say it with shame) is not yet eradicated. That a dread of papacy should at one period have been entertained is not surprising, but it is surely time to have done with it. The temporal supremacy of the pope, and the other bug-bears, which are regularly marshalled to fright the good protestants of England from consenting to Catholic emancipation, have no terrors for us. Are we reminded of the extravagance and

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

absurdity of some of their observances, and the impolicy of their institutions? In answer, we will merely ask, have they not all been outdone by the fanciful vagaries, the incredible inventions of modern protestants? It will hardly become any persuasion to object to the tenets of another, until we can say with certainty where the exuberant ingenuity of man will stop. For ourselves, we welcome Catholicism, or any other sect, so long as it shall be recommended, to use the words of our author, 'by that mild and persuasive charity, which marks the true ministers of Jesus Christ.' Good policy, as well as brotherhood, requires that the numerous emigrants who flock to us should be encouraged, rather than otherwise, in their national belief. We need not look beyond our own city for the good effects of a Catholic establishment, under the guidance of mild, enlightened, and exemplary pastors. We are not to ask ourselves whether we should prefer to make new comers Presbyterians, Lutherans, or Quakers, according to our belief, but whether we will have them Christians or not. The foreigner, who comes among us, and finds the faith in which he was educated unknown or despised, who looks around in vain for the worship he has been taught to revere;—is it to be supposed that he will readily adopt any of the sects he finds about him, all of them perhaps equally revolting to his conscience? Every one finds an answer in his own breast. He will probably become indifferent to religion, and insensible to its sanctions; he may become an infidel—he will rarely become a convert. As friends of toleration, we never look with jealousy on the growth of a weak sect. The multiplication of creeds, which, according to our author, is viewed by many with alarm, as the germ of future discord, is regarded by us in a very different point of view. Despairing of unanimity in matters of faith, we look for the preservation of religious quiet in the infinite variety of belief. The maxim of the poet, that

'All nature's difference makes all nature's peace'

may with strict analogy be applied to the present case. With these sentiments we consider every new sect as adding strength to the common barrier against religious tyranny. Weakness is always tolerant; but we shall think the death blow of religious freedom given, the moment that any one sect, be it which it may, is strong enough to dictate to the rest.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ART. XVII.—*Account of an expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains, performed in the years* 1819 *and* 1820, *by order of the honorable J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, under the command of Major Stephen H. Long; from the notes of Major Long, Mr T. Say, and other gentlemen of the exploring party. Compiled by Edwin James, botanist and geologist for the expedition.* In two volumes, with an atlas. Philadelphia, Cary and Lea, 1823.

THE appearance of this work has been for some time anxiously expected; nor do we fear that the public expectation will be disappointed. An increasing interest pervades the community with regard to the vast region traversed by this enterprising party. They were in many respects much better qualified and fitted out for their expedition, than the company of their distinguished predecessors, Lewis and Clarke; and the work before us, the record of their observations and discoveries, must be allowed not only to possess the interest inseparable from such a narrative, but to make highly important additions to our knowledge of the geography and natural history of the valley of the Mississippi and the Missouri. Of that important portion of the work before us, which relates to geology, mineralogy, botany, and zoology, we shall seek an opportunity of speaking separately on another occasion. We propose, at present, to lay before our readers an historical account of this expedition, some general sketches of the country traversed, and of the tribes of native inhabitants visited by the party under Major Long. We cannot but feel that we are hardly doing justice to a work of this character, by the meagre abstract we shall be obliged to make; and we shall esteem ourselves happy, if our readers, dissatisfied with the imperfect reflection of this expedition from our pages, shall feel a desire to inform themselves more thoroughly from the work itself.

This expedition started from Pittsburgh, in the spring of 1819. It was projected by the Secretary at War, for the purpose of exploring the Mississippi, Missouri, and their navigable tributaries, as far as the Rocky Mountains. The chief command of the expedition was given to Major Long. Dr Baldwin was attached to it as a botanist, Mr Say as a zoologist, Mr Jessup as a geologist, Mr Peale as an assistant naturalist, and Mr Seymour as a draftsman. The gentlemen

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

named, with other officers and members of the party, appear to have cooperated with each other, toward promoting the common object, with singular harmony and zeal. The labors of Dr Baldwin, however, were unhappily brought to a close by consumption in the progress of the expedition; and the extracts from his botanical journal are sufficient proof of the loss, which the party suffered by this misfortune.

The expedition was embarked on board the *Western Engineer*, a steam boat, destined to be the first, which should proceed a considerable distance up the Missouri, and which accomplished the trip to the Council Bluff, the station of the military post of the United States in that quarter.

On the third of May, the expedition departed from Pittsburgh, and arrived the next day at Wheeling, where the great national road from Cumberland meets the road from Zanesville, Columbus, and Cincinnati. One hundred and forty miles of this road from Cumberland to Wheeling cost the United States one million eight hundred thousand dollars, being an average of less than thirteen thousand dollars a mile. The Newburyport turnpike, built in a part of the country where we should have supposed work could be done as economically as in any portion of it, cost at the rate of at least thirteen thousand dollars a mile. In this estimation, however, is included the compensation made to the owners of the lands traversed by the turnpike, which we presume to have been much greater between Boston and Newburyport, than between Cumberland and Wheeling. The bridges and other works of masonry on the western portions of this great national road, are built of a compact argillaceous sandstone, of a light grey or yellowish white color, less durable than the stone used in the middle and eastern parts of the road, which is the blue metalliferous limestone, one of the most beautiful and imperishable materials for building, which our country affords.

On the eighth, the party passed, at the mouth of the Kenhawa, the little village of Mount Pleasant, situated on the spot, where in 1774 a battle was fought between the Indians on one side, and the Virginian troops on the other, in which *Logan*, the Mingo chief, avenged himself for the murder of his family. The eloquent speech, which he afterwards delivered, has owed perhaps as much to its reporter, as lord Chatham's did to the pen of Johnson.—Having arrived at Cincinnati, on the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ninth, the party was detained there till the eighteenth, by the declining health of Dr Baldwin. On the night of the eighteenth they passed in the river the boats containing the sixth regiment of the United States army, destined, like themselves, to the Missouri, and they arrived on the morning of the nineteenth at Louisville. Having passed the rapids in safety at Louisville, they proceeded down the river at the rate of ten miles an hour, with a pressure of steam equal to one hundred pounds on the square inch. A little below the rapids is an island thus described:

'A small island in the Ohio, about twenty-three miles below the rapids, is called Flint island, from the great numbers of fragments of flints, broken arrow points, and various instruments of stone, heretofore used by the Indians, which are found there on turning up the soil. This island has probably been the favorite residence of some tribe, particularly expert in the manufacture of those rude implements, with which the wants of the aboriginal Americans were supplied. The stone employed in these manufactures appears to have been, in most instances, that compact flint, which occurs in nodular masses, in the secondary limestones. In one instance, we met with a triangular prism, of a very hard and compact aggregate of feldspar and hornblende, unlike any rock we have seen in the valley of the Mississippi. This prism was about five inches long, with faces of about an inch in width, and was perforated, from end to end, forming a complete tube, with an orifice about half an inch in diameter, and smoothly polished, both within and without. We were never able to discover to what use this implement could have been applied; nor do we recollect to have met with accounts of any thing analogous to it, except, perhaps, those "tubes of a very hard stone," mentioned by the Jesuit Venegas, as used by the natives of California, in their treatment of the sick. That it may have passed, by means of the intercourse of various tribes of Indians, from the primitive mountains of California to the rapids of the Ohio, is not perhaps improbable. Indirect methods of communication may have conveyed the productions of one part of the continent to another, very remote from it. The savages of the Missouri receive an intoxicating bean from their neighbours on the south and west; these, again, must probably procure it from other tribes inhabiting, or occasionally visiting, the tropical regions.' pp. 30, 31.

On the twenty-ninth of May our travellers passed the mouths of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, the two largest tributaries to the Ohio, and on the thirtieth arrived at a point

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

above the mouth of the Cash river, where a town has been laid out, called *America*. It is on the north bank of the Ohio, about eleven miles above the Mississippi, and for reasons, which our authors have given in detail, it seems likely that this spot, or some one near it, will become the *depôt* of a very extensive trade. They even go so far as to say, that 'in view of the great extent of inland navigation centering at this place, and the incalculable amount of products to be realized at no distant period, from the cultivation of the rich valleys and fertile plains of the West, a great proportion of which must find a market here, no doubt can be entertained, that *it will eventually become a place of as great wealth and importance, as almost any in the United States.*'

On the thirtieth, our travellers reached the mouth of the Ohio, having descended that beautiful river, from its head at Pittsburgh to its junction with the Mississippi, a distance of thirteen hundred and thirty-three miles, through a country surpassed in fertility by no part of the United States. Their course was henceforward to be more slowly made against the powerful current of the Mississippi and the Missouri. They passed several steam-boats ascending with stores for the troops of the United States; and affording the spectacle of the last and most powerful improvements in machinery thus pushed forward into the wilderness, scarcely as yet embraced within the compass of our geography. On the third of June, they passed the insular rock in the middle of the Mississippi, called the Grand Tower. It is about one hundred and fifty feet high, and two hundred and fifty in diameter. Between this rock and the right bank of the river, is a channel of about one hundred and fifty yards wide, with a deep and rapid current. Our authors are of opinion that a bridge might here be constructed, for which this rock might serve as a pier.

Having given a character of the fertility of the soil in the 'great American bottom,' above the mouth of the Kaskaskia river on the eastern side of the Mississippi, and having also observed, that the lands on the opposite bank, though less fertile than the American bottom, are yet highly valuable, and have long been objects of *scandalous speculation*, our authors subjoin the following anecdote, in justification of this remark:

'Among a variety of stratagems practised in this part of the country to obtain titles to lands, was one which will be best ex-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

plained by the following anecdote, related to us by a respectable citizen of St Genevieve. Preparatory to taking possession of Louisiana in 1805, the legislature passed a law, authorizing a claim to one section of land, in favor of any person, who should have actually made *improvements* in any part of the same, previous to the year 1804. Commissioners were appointed to settle all claims of this description, more commonly known by the name of Improvement Rights. A person, somewhere in the county of Cape Girardeau, being desirous of establishing a claim of this kind to a tract of land, adopted the following method:—The time having expired for the establishment of a right, agreeably to the spirit of the law, he took with him two witnesses to the favorite spot, on which he wished to establish his claim, and in their presence marked two trees, standing on opposite sides of a spring, one with the figures 1803, the other 1804, and placed a stalk of growing corn in the spring. He then brought the witnesses before the commissioners, who, upon their declaration that they had seen corn growing at the place specified, in the *spring* between 1803 and 1804, admitted the claim of the applicant, and gave him a title to the land.' vol. i. p. 51.

On the ninth, the party arrived at St Louis, and some very interesting notices are given of prints of human feet in the limestone in the neighborhood, and of the Indian tumuli, which exist there in considerable numbers. Our limits do not permit us to enlarge our quotations in this part of the abstract we are attempting of their voyage. One very important fact, however, deserves to be recorded. By occasion of the account of the excavations made in one of these tumuli, our authors mention, that Dr Drake, the highly respected naturalist of Cincinnati, had exhibited to them, in his cabinet, two large marine shells, that had been dug out of ancient Indian tumuli in Ohio, one of which appears to be a *cassis cornutus*. All the authorities, except Linnæus, regard the *cassis cornutus* as an Asiatic shell; and Bruguiere, say our authors, has maintained that Linnæus was mistaken, in referring it to America. The circumstance, that a shell of Asiatic origin has been found in an Indian tumulus in Ohio, would seem to establish an intercourse at least between the Indians of North America and those of Asia. Our authors justly adduce this discovery as a confirmation of the theory of the Asiatic origin of our native tribes; a theory, which, since the researches of M. de Humboldt, has been very extensively adopted.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Having alluded to the probability of a connexion between our native population and that of the Asiatic isles, we beg leave to digress a moment, with respect to the latter. The newly established 'Society of Geography' at Paris, which, under the most favorable auspices, and combining the efforts of some of the most respectable naturalists, travellers, men of science, and philosophers in France, has been instituted for the promotion of the study of geography, has assigned as a prize question, for which the dissertations are to be delivered to the society in February 1824, the following subject, viz. 'to investigate the origin of the different nations scattered among the islands of the Pacific ocean to the southeast of the continent of Asia, examining the points of resemblance or dissimilarity between them severally and other nations, in respect to configuration, physical constitution, manners, customs, civil and religious institutions, traditions, and monuments; with a comparison of the elements of their languages, in relation to the analogy of words, and grammatical forms; and taking into consideration the means of communication, as affected by geographical position, prevailing winds, currents, and the state of navigation.' We could wish that the credit of producing the successful essay on this subject might belong to an American. The subject is evidently identified with American antiquities; as no one now doubts that these islands are a link in the chain of humanity, which connects the natives of America with those of Asia. All the printed documents on the subject are as accessible on this side of the water as on the other. Monuments and specimens of the arts of the South Sea islanders abound more in this country, than in any other, and we presume we might challenge all the cabinets in Europe to produce as many of them, as are to be found in the single museum at Salem. The school at Cornwall in Connecticut furnishes the means, we believe, of more exact investigation of some of the dialects of those islands, than it can be in the power of any European scholar to institute; and we cannot but wish that the possession of these facilities might awaken the industry and enterprize of our geographers. The prize to be awarded to the successful essay is twelve hundred francs.

But we return to Major Long's expedition. On the twenty-first of June they passed, in this truly magnificent navigation from river to river, into the Missouri; and after various ad-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ventures, which, with the observations of our authors upon them, we are forced to omit, arrived on the thirteenth of July at the town of Franklin.

'This town, at present increasing more rapidly than any other on the Missouri, had been commenced but two years and an half before the time of our journey. It then contained about one hundred and twenty log houses of one story, several framed dwellings of two stories, and two of brick, thirteen shops for the sale of merchandise, four taverns, two smiths' shops, two large team mills, two billiard rooms, a court house, a log prison of two stories, a post office, and a printing press issuing a weekly paper. At this time bricks were sold at ten dollars per thousand, corn at twenty-five cents per bushel, wheat one dollar, bacon at twelve and an half cents per pound; uncleared lands from two to ten or fifteen dollars per acre. The price of labour was seventy-five cents per day.

'In 1816, thirty families only of whites were settled on the left side of the Missouri, above Cote Sans Dessein. In three years, their numbers had increased to more than eight hundred families.'—vol. i. pp. 88, 89.

Here the expedition met with a loss in the death of Dr Baldwin. The decease of an enterprising naturalist, while engaged in the pursuit of his studies, demands, if any thing, the feeble tribute it may be in the power of a literary journal to pay to his memory. Without any other acquaintance with his character than we derive from the work before us, the following notice of this gentleman is so handsome, and apparently so just, that we feel a pleasure in quoting it.

'Dr Baldwin's health had so much declined that, on our arrival at Franklin, he was induced to relinquish the intention of ascending farther with the party. He was removed on shore to the house of Dr Lowry, intending to remain there until he should recover so much strength as might enable him to return to his family. But the hopes of his friends, even for his partial recovery, were not to be realized. He lingered a few weeks after our departure, and expired on the thirty-first of August. His diary, in which the latest date is the eighth of August, only a few days previous to his death, shows with what earnestness, even in the last stages of weakness and disease, his mind was devoted to the pursuit, in which he had so nobly spent the most important part of his life. He has left behind him a name which will long be honored;—his early death will be regretted not only by those who knew his value as a friend, but by all the lovers of that fas-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

cinating science, to which his life was dedicated, and which his labours have so much contributed to advance and embellish. We regret that it is not in our power to add to this inadequate testimony of respect, such notices of the life and writings of Dr Baldwin, as might be satisfactory to our readers. His manuscripts were numerous, but his works were left unfinished. The remarks on the Rotbollia, published in Silliman's Journal, are his only productions, as far as we are informed, hitherto before the public * His Herbarium, it is well known, has contributed to enrich the works of Pursh and Nuttall. He was the friend and correspondent of the venerable Muhlenburgh, and contributed materials for the copious catalogue of North American plants, published by that excellent botanist. In South America he met with Bonpland, the illustrious companion of Humboldt, and a friendly correspondence was established between them, which continued until his death. He had travelled extensively, not only in South America, but in Georgia, Florida, and other parts of North America. His notes and collections are extensive and valuable. During the short period of his connexion with the exploring party, the infirmities, resulting from a long established and incurable pulmonary disease, then rapidly approaching its fatal termination, could not overcome the activity of his mind, or divert his attention entirely from his favorite pursuit. Though unable to walk on shore, he caused plants to be collected and brought on board the boat; and not disheartened by the many vexations attending this method of examination, he persevered, and in the course of the voyage from Pittsburg to Franklin, detected and described many new plants, and added many valuable observations relating to such as were before known.'—vol. i. pp. 93, 94.

On the nineteenth of July, a temporary division was made in the party. Messrs Say, Jessup, Seymour, and Dougherty, (an interpreter in the service of Major O'Fallon, Indian agent at the Council Bluffs, who had joined the party below,) accompanied by Major Biddle, left Franklin, intending to traverse the country by land to Fort Osage, and there to await the ar-

'* In a letter addressed to Mr Frazer, an extract from which was published in the tenth volume of the London Journal of Literature and the Arts, Dr Baldwin mentions having discovered, near Monte Video, in South America, the *Solanum Tuberosum* in its native locality. Mr Lambert, however, considered this plant as the *Solanum Commersoni* of Dunal, and though it produces tuberous roots, and in other respects makes a near approach to S. tuberosum, he was not satisfied of their identity, and remarks that it is yet to be proved, that this is the stock from which the common potatoe has been derived. It appears, however, that the original locality of the solanum tuberosum has been ascertained by Ruiz and Pavon, after having escaped the observation of Humboldt and Bonpland.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

rival of the steam boat. The party now consisted of Major Long, Major O'Fallon, Mr Peale, and lieutenants Graham and Smith, and in three days arrived at Charaton, a small village of which the settlement began in 1817. The steam boat, Western Engineer, in which the party was embarked, was the first that had ever assended the Missouri, above this point; and we can readily conceive the interest taken in beholding the onward progress of this herald of civilization.—We rejoice to find in the report of the gentlemen of this expedition abundant confirmation of the fact, that coal exists in extensive beds, in various tracts of this thinly wooded country.

On the first of August, the steam boat arrived at Fort Osage, and found the party of Mr Say, which had left them at Franklin, there encamped. They had arrived at the rendezvous on the twenty-fourth of July, a week before their companions in the boat. Here another division of the party was projected, which terminated unfortunately for the portion detached. For the sake of a more thorough examination of the tract between Fort Osage and the Konzas river, and also of the region between the Konzas and the Platte, a party was detached from the steam boat, with instructions to cross the river Konzas, at the Konza village, thence to traverse the country by the nearest route to the Platte, and to descend that river to the Missouri. The party consisted of Mr Say, to whom the command was given, Messrs. Jessup, Peele, Seymour, and Swift, Mr J. Dougherty, and five soldiers. Previous to the departure of the steam boat from Fort Osage, Major O'Fallon, the Indian agent, despatched a messenger across the country to the Konzas nation of Indians, residing on the Konzas river, summoning their chiefs to a council to be held at Isle au [?] Vache, on the arrival of the Western Engineer. The steam boat moved up the river from Fort Osage, and arrived at the island on the fourteenth of the month. The council with the Indians had been appointed for the eighteenth, but Major O'Fallon's messenger having reached the Konzas village at a time when the Indians were hunting, they were unable to attend before the twenty-fourth. We subjoin the following account of the council.

'On the twenty-fourth, the chiefs and principal men of the Konzas, to the number of one hundred and fifty, assembled under an arbour prepared for their reception. The Indian agent addressed them in a speech adapted to the occasion, setting forth

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the causes of complaint, which they had given by their repeated insults and depredations upon the whites, giving them notice of the approach of a military force, of sufficient strength to chastise their insolence, and advising them to seize the present opportunity of averting the vengeance they deserved, by proper concessions, and by their future good behaviour, to conciliate those, whose friendship they would have so much occasion to desire.

'The replies of the chiefs were simple and short, expressive of their conviction of the justice of the complaints made against them, and of their acquiescence in the terms of reconciliation proposed by the agent. There were present at this council, one hundred and sixty-one Konzas, including chiefs and warriors, and thirteen Osages. The most distinguished men were Na-he-da-ba, or *Long Neck*, one of the principal chiefs; Ka-he-ga-wa-ta-ning-ga, *Little Chief*, second in rank; Shon-ga-ne-ga, who had been one of the principal chiefs, but had resigned his authority in favor of Ka-he-ga-wa-ta-ning-ga; Wa-ha-che-ra, *Big Knife*, a partizan or leader of war parties; Wom-pa-wa-ra, *He who scares all men*, more commonly known to the whites as Plume Blanche, or White Plume, a man rising rapidly in importance, and apparently destined to become the leader of the nation. In addition to the Indians, the officers of the garrison, and a few gentlemen were present at the council. The ceremonies were commenced by a discharge of ordnance from the steam boat; the flags were hoisted in their appropriate places, a council flag being placed near the chair occupied by the agent. The Indians appeared gratified at the displays made on the occasion, but their attention was more particularly aroused by the exhibition of a few rockets and shells, fired for their entertainment. At our departure, which, on account of the Indians, was delayed until the twenty-fifth of August, many of them were present, and manifested some surprize at witnessing the operations of the steam boat.'—vol. i. pp. 111, 112.

At the isle au Vache, Major Long's party was strengthened by a detachment of a boat and fifteen men from the United States troops there, and on the twenty-fifth of August moved up the river. On the first of September, while the boat was sailing by the mouth of Wolf river, it was hailed from the shore by Dougherty, one of Mr Say's party, detached, as we have stated above, to explore the region between the Konzas and the Platte. Mr Say's party had arrived safely at the Konzas village, of which the chiefs and warriors were, as we have seen, absent at a council with Major O'Fallon; and during his visit among this people, Mr Say had opportunity of

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

making much curious observation on their character and peculiarities, for which we must refer to the work before us. Having finished his visit to the Konzas, he proceeded onward with his companions, and had the misfortune to fall in with a war party of the Republican Pawnees, by whom they were robbed and insulted; and being deprived of their horses, rendered incapable of prosecuting their projected tour. They had no alternative but to return to the village of the Konzas, whence they had just departed.

'Mr Say's party were kindly received at the village they had left on the preceding day. In the evening they had retired to rest in the lodge set apart for their accommodation, when they were alarmed by a party of savages, rushing in armed with bows, arrows and lances, shouting and yelling in a most frightful manner. The gentlemen of the party had immediate recourse to their arms, but observing that some squaws, who were in the lodge, appeared unmoved, they began to suspect that no molestation to them was intended. The Indians collected around the fire in the centre of the lodge, yelling incessantly; at length their howlings assumed something of a measured tone, and they began to accompany their voices with a sort of drum and rattles. After singing for some time, one who appeared to be their leader, struck the post over the fire with his lance, and they all began to dance, keeping very exact time with the music. Each warrior had, besides his arms, and rattles made of strings of deer's hoofs, some part of the intestines of an animal inflated, and inclosing a few small stones, which produced a sound like pebbles in a gourd shell. After dancing round the fire for some time, without appearing to notice the strangers, they departed, raising the same wolfish howl, with which they had entered; but their music and their yelling continued to be heard about the village during the night.

'This ceremony, called the *dog dance*, was performed by the Konzas for the entertainment of their guests. Mr Seymour took an opportunity to sketch the attitudes and dresses of the principal figures.'—vol. i. p. 135.

Mr Say and his party now crossed to Isle au Vache, where the council already mentioned had been held; but had the mortification to find that the Western Engineer had already ascended the river. Messrs Say and Jessup, unable from illness to travel further on foot, determined to remain for the present at Isle au Vache; while the rest of the party under the direction of Mr Dougherty, who was thoroughly acquaint-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ed with the country, undertook to cross it, in the direction of Wolf river, where this latter person, in the manner we have mentioned, arrived in season to hail the Western Engineer, as she was passing, on the first of September. On the following day the whole party, with the exception of Messrs Say and Jessup, moved up the river; on the fifteenth of September arrived at the mouth of the Platte, and on the seventeenth encamped near the spot destined to be the winter quarters of the expedition, just above the trading establishment of the Missouri fur company, known as Fort Lisa, from Mr Manuel Lisa, one of the most active persons engaged in the Missouri fur trade.

The position selected for the establishment of winter quarters for the exploring party, was on the west bank of the Missouri, about half a mile above Fort Lisa, five miles below Council Bluff, and three miles above Boyer's river. At this place, the party came to anchor on the nineteenth of September, and in a few days had made great progress in cutting timber, quarrying stone, and in other preparations for the construction of quarters. The first object of Major O'Fallon was to obtain redress of the Pawnees for their outrage on Mr Say. Messengers were sent across the country to stop the traders, who had already departed with merchandise for that tribe, and shortly after, Mr Dougherty, with two Frenchmen acquainted with the language of the Pawnees, was sent to them to demand restitution. He had previously been despatched with a deputation of Konzas to the village of the Otoes, with whom the Konzas had been at war, with proposals of peace on the part of the latter. On the fourth of October, a council was held by Major O'Fallon with about one hundred Otoes and a deputation of the Ioways. The day before the council, a dance was performed by the Indians, which is thus described:

'The principal chiefs advanced before their people, and upon invitation seated themselves. After a short interval of silence, Shonga-tonga, the *Big-horse*, a large, portly Indian of a commanding presence, arose, and said,—"My father, your children have come to dance before your tent agreeably to our custom of honoring brave or distinguished persons."

'After a suitable reply by Major O'Fallon, the amusement of dancing was commenced by the striking up of their rude instrumental and vocal music; the former consisting of a gong, made of a large keg, over one of the ends of which a skin was stretch-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ed, which was struck by a small stick; and another instrument, consisting of a stick of firm wood, notched like a saw, over the teeth of which a smaller stick was rubbed forcibly backward and forward; with these, rude as they were, very good time was preserved with the vocal performers, who sat around them, and by all the natives, as they sat, in the inflection of their bodies, or the movements of their limbs. After the lapse of a little time, three individuals leaped up and danced around for a few minutes, then, at a concerted signal from the master of ceremonies, the music ceased, and they retired to their seats, uttering a loud noise, which, by patting the mouth rapidly with the hand, was broken into a succession of similar sounds, somewhat like the hurried barking of a dog. Several sets of dancers succeeded, each terminating as the first. In the intervals of the dances, a warrior would step forward and strike a flag-staff they had erected with a stick, whip, or other weapon, and recount his martial deeds. This ceremony is called *striking the post*, and whatever is then said may be relied upon as rigid truth, being delivered in the presence of many a jealous warrior and witness, who could easily detect and would immediately disgrace the *striker* for exaggeration or falsehood. This is called the *beggars' dance*, during which some presents are always expected by the performers, as tobacco, whiskey, or trinkets. But on this occasion, as none of those articles were immediately offered, the amusement was not, at first, distinguished by much activity. The master of the ceremonies continually called aloud to them to exert themselves; but still they were somewhat dull and backward. *Ietan* now stepped forward and lashed a post with his whip, declaring that he would thus punish those who did not dance. This threat, from one whom they had vested with authority for this occasion, had a manifest effect upon his auditors, who were presently highly wrought up by the sight of two or three little mounds of tobacco twist, which were now laid before them, and appeared to infuse new life.

'After lashing the post and making his threat, Ietan went on to narrate his martial exploits. He had stolen horses seven or eight times from the Konzas; he had first struck the bodies of three of that nation slain in battle. He had stolen horses from the Ietan nation, and had struck one of their dead. He had stolen horses from the Pawnees, and struck the body of one Pawnee Loup. He had stolen horses several times from the Omawhaws, and once from the Puncas. He had struck the bodies of two Sioux. On a war party, in company with the Pawnees, he had attacked the Spaniards, and penetrated into one of their camps; the Spaniards, excepting a man and boy, fled, himself being at a distance before his party, he was shot at and missed by the man, whom he immediately shot down and struck. "This,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

my father," said he, "is the only martial act of my life, that I am ashamed of." After several rounds of dancing, and of striking at the post by the warriors, Mi-a-ke-ta, or the *Little Soldier*, a war-worn veteran, took his turn to strike the post. He leaped actively about, and strained his voice to its utmost pitch, whilst he portrayed some of the scenes of blood, in which he had acted. He had struck dead bodies of individuals of all the red nations around, Osages, Konzas, Pawnee Loups, Pawnee Republicans, Grand Pawnees, Puncas, Omawhaws, and Sioux, Padoucas, La Plais or Bald Heads, Ietans, Sauks, Foxes, and Ioways; he had struck eight of one nation, seven of another, &c. He was proceeding with his account when Ietan ran up to him, put his hand upon his mouth, and respectfully led him to his seat. This act was no trifling compliment paid to the well-known brave. It indicated that he had still so many glorious acts to speak of, that he would occupy so much time as to prevent others from speaking, and put to shame the other warriors by the contrast of his actions with theirs.' vol. i. pp. 153—156.

On the day succeeding this friendly council, the Pawnees, who had been summoned to give account of the outrage mentioned, and of various other acts of violence, appeared at the encampment. They advanced leisurely onward in a narrow pathway, in *Indian file*, led by a grand chief. Near this pathway, the American band of music had been stationed; and when Long-hair, the chief, arrived opposite to it, the band struck up suddenly and loudly a martial air. 'We wished to observe the effect,' add our authors, 'which instruments, that he had never seen nor heard before, would produce on this distinguished man, and therefore eyed him closely, and were not disappointed to observe, that he did not deign to look upon them, or to manifest, by any emotion whatever, that he was sensible of their presence. The Indians arranged themselves on the benches prepared for them, and the cessation of the music was succeeded by stillness, which was suddenly interrupted by loud explosions of our howitzers, *that startled many of us, but did not appear to attract the notice of the Pawnees.*' We have never seen so complete an illustration of the control possessed by these savages over their curiosity, and the command they are able to exercise over their nerves. The council terminated, after much of the property taken from Mr Say's party had been restored, and promises given, that the offenders should be punished with a whipping.—Having thus established his party at the Council Bluff, Major Long, with Mr Jessup,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

on the eleventh of October, took leave of their friends at the encampment, and descended the Missouri in a canoe, on their way back to Washington and Philadelphia.

The following chapter contains an interesting journal of occurrences during the winter, succeeded by a series of chapters, compiled from the journal of Mr Say, in which an account is given of the Omawhaws or Mahas, as they are otherwise called. These chapters form a valuable addition to our stock of knowledge with regard to the character and manners of the native tribes of our continent, and cannot be perused without interest. Our limits enable us to make but a few detached extracts from this portion of the volume. The following contains the receipt for a dish, which we think would have filled Mrs Glass or Dr Kitchener with dismay.

'A singular description of food is made use of by some tribes of the Snake Indians, consisting chiefly and sometimes wholly of a species of ant, (Formica, Lin.) which is very abundant in the region in which they roam. The squaws go in the cool of the morning to the hillocks of these active insects, knowing that then they are assembled together in the greatest numbers. Uncovering the little mounds to a certain depth, the squaws scoop them up in their hands, and put them into a bag prepared for the purpose. When a sufficient number are obtained, they repair to the water, and cleanse the mass from all the dirt and small pieces of wood collected with them. The ants are then placed upon a flat stone, and, by the pressure of a rolling-pin, are crushed together into a dense mass, and rolled out like pastry. Of this substance a soup is prepared, which is relished by the Indians, but is not at all to the taste of white men. Whether or not this species of ant is analogous to the *Vachacos*, which Humboldt speaks of, as furnishing food to the Indians of the Rio Negro and the Guiana, we have no opportunity of ascertaining.' vol. i. p. 214.

The following passage will afford some idea of the means made use of, by some of the savage chiefs, to acquire or maintain an ascendency over their miserable subjects.

'The power of some of the former rulers of the Omawhaws is said to have been almost absolute. That of the celebrated Blackbird *Wash-ing-guh-sah-ba*, seems to have been actually so, and was retained undiminished until his death, which occurred in the year 1800, of the small-pox, which then almost desolated his nation. Agreeably to his orders, he was interred in a sitting posture, on his favorite horse, upon the summit of a high bluff of the bank of the Missouri, "that he might continue to see the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

white people ascending the river to trade with his nation." A mound was raised over his remains, on which food was regularly placed for many years afterwards; but this rite has been discontinued, and the staff, that, on its summit, supported a white flag, has no longer existence.

'This chief appears to have possessed extraordinary mental abilities, but he resorted to the most nefarious means to establish firmly the supremacy of his power. He gained the reputation of the greatest of medicine men, and his medicine, which was no other than arsenic itself, that had been furnished him for the purpose, by the villany of the traders, was secretly administered to his enemies or rivals. Those persons who offended him, or counteracted his views, were thus removed agreeably to his predictions, and all opposition silenced, apparently by the operation of his potent spells.

'He delighted in the display of his power, and on one occasion, during a national hunt, accompanied by a white man, they arrived on the bank of a fine flowing stream, and although all were parched with thirst, no one but the white man was permitted to taste of the water. As the chief thought proper to give no reason for this severe punishment, it seemed to be the result of caprice.

'One inferior but distinguished chief, called *Little-Bow*, at length opposed his power. This man was a warrior of high renown, and so popular in the nation, that it was remarked of him, that he enjoyed the confidence and best wishes of the people, whilst his rival reigned in terror. Such an opponent could not be brooked, and the Black-bird endeavored to destroy him.

'On one occasion, the Little Bow returned to his lodge, after the absence of a few days on an excursion. His wife placed before him his accustomed food; but the wariness of the Indian character, led him to observe some peculiarity in her behavior, which assured him that all was not right. He questioned her concerning the food she had set before him, and the appearance of her countenance, and her replies, so much increased his suspicions, that he compelled her to eat the contents of the bowl. She then confessed, that the Black-bird had induced her to mingle with the food a portion of his terrible medicine, in order to destroy him. She fell a victim to the machination of the Black-bird, who was thus disappointed of his object.

'With a band of nearly two hundred followers, the Little-Bow finally seceded from the nation, and established a separate village on the Missouri, where they remained until the death of the tyrant.

'On one occasion, the Black-bird seems to have been touched by remorse, or perhaps by penitence, in his career of enormity.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

One of his squaws having been guilty of some trifling offence, he drew his knife in a paroxysm of rage, and stabbed her to the heart. After viewing her dead body a few moments, he seated himself near it, and covering his face with his robe, he remained immoveable for three days, without taking any nourishment. His people vainly petitioned that he would "have pity on them," and unveil his face; he was deaf to all their remonstrances, and the opinion prevailed, that he intended to die through starvation. A little child was at length brought in by its parent, who gently raised the leg of the chief, and placed the neck of the child beneath his foot. The murderer then arose, harangued his people, and betook himself to his ordinary occupations.

'Towards the latter part of his life, he became very corpulent, the consequence of indolence and repletion. He was transported by carriers, on a bison robe, to the various feasts to which he was daily invited, and should the messenger find him asleep, they dared not to awaken him by a noise or by shaking, but by respectfully tickling his nose with a straw.' vol. i. pp. 223—228.

A very affecting story of a young squaw, married to an American trader, and afterwards deserted by him, is told in the following chapter. Major Long, in his judicious report to the Secretary at War, at the close of the second volume, has made the remark, that most of the sentiment and reflection ascribed to the savages in the speeches and sayings reported of them, must be set down to the interpreters and reporters. If there is no exaggeration of the same kind in the narration, to which we have just alluded, it proves an unexpected refinement of feeling on the part of the savage female in question; a refinement which contrasts strongly with the general tenor of the descriptions of their life, manners, and character, contained in other portions of the work.

Additional proof of the stoicism, with which the savages support bodily pains, is found in the account of the expiatory tortures of the Minnetarees.

'Annually, in the month of July, the Minnetarees celebrate their great medicine dance, or dance of penitence, which may well be compared with the Currack-pooja or the expiatory tortures of the Hindoos, so often celebrated at Calcutta. On this occasion a considerable quantity of food is prepared, which is well cooked, and served up in their best manner. The devotees then dance and sing to their music at intervals, for three or four days together in full view of the victuals, without attempting to taste of them. But they do not, even at this time, forego their

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

accustomed hospitality. And if a stranger enters, he is invited to eat, though no one partakes with him. On the third or fourth day, the severer expiatory tortures commence, to which the preceding ceremonies were but preludes. An individual presents himself before one of the officiating magi, crying and lamenting, and requests him to cut a fillet of skin from his arm, which he extends for that purpose. The devout operator thrusts a sharp instrument through the skin near the wrist, then introduces the knife, and cuts out a piece of the required length, sometimes extending the excision entirely to the shoulder. Another will request bands of skin to be cut from his arm. A third will have his breast flayed, so as to represent a full moon or crescent. A fourth submits to the removal of concentric arcs of skin, from his breast. A fifth prays the operator to remove small pieces of skin from various indicated parts of his body; for this purpose an iron bodkin is thrust through the skin, and the piece is cut off, by passing the knife under the instrument.

'Various are the forms of suffering which they inflict upon themselves. An individual requests the operator, to pierce a hole through the skin of each of his shoulders, and after passing a long cord through each of these holes, he repairs to a golgotha at some distance from the village, and selects one of the bison skulls collected there. To the chosen cranium he affixes the ends of his cords, and drags it in this painful manner to the lodge, around which he must go with his burden, before he can be released from it. No one is permitted to assist him, neither dares he to put his own hands to the cords, to alleviate his sufferings. If it should so happen that the horns of the cranium get hooked under a root or other obstacle, he must extricate it in the best manner he can, by pulling different ways, but he must not touch the rope or the head, with his hands, or in any respect attempt to relieve the painful strain upon his wounds, until his complete task is performed.

'Some of the penitents have arrows thrust through various muscular parts of their bodies, as through the skin and superficial muscles of the arm, leg, breast, and back.

'A devotee caused two stout arrows to be passed through the muscles of his breast, one on each side near the mammæ. To these arrows, cords were attached, the opposite ends of which were affixed to the upper part of a post, which had been firmly implanted in the earth for the purpose. He then threw himself backward, into an oblique position, his back within about two feet of the soil, so as to depend with the greater portion of his weight by the cords. In this situation of excruciating agony, he continued to chant and to keep time to the music of the gong, until from long abstinence and suffering he fainted. The by-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

standers then cried out, "Courage, courage," with much shouting and noise; after a short interval of insensibility he revived, and proceeded with his self-inflicted tortures as before, until nature being completely exhausted, he again relapsed into insensibility, upon which he was loosed from the cords, and carried off amidst the acclamations of the whole assembly.

'Another Minnetaree, in compliance with a vow he had made, caused a hole to be perforated through the muscles of each shoulder; through these holes, cords were passed, which were, at the opposite ends, attached by way of a bridle to a horse, that had been penned up three or four days without food or water. In this manner, he led the horse to the margin of the river. The horse, of course, endeavored to drink, but it was the province of the Indian to prevent him, and that only by straining at the cords with the muscles of the shoulder, without resorting to the assistance of his hands. And notwithstanding all the exertions of the horse to drink, his master succeeded in preventing him, and returned with him to his lodge, having accomplished his painful task.'—vol. i. pp. 276—278.

In the sixteenth chapter an account is given of an expedition of Major O'Fallon, and other gentlemen, to the villages of the Pawnees, or Panis, as the name is sometimes written. On this tour they saw the celebrated young chief, renowned for his courage and humanity, displayed in abolishing the practice of human sacrifices, and who appears in the gallery of the House of Representatives in Mr Morse's picture; having been one of the party of Indians, who visited Washington last winter. Perceiving at the head of the chapter that it contained a notice of *human sacrifices* among the Pawnees, we had thought it possible that some analogy might be traced in this horrid feature of manners between the ancient Aztecs and these northern tribes. Some resemblance in reality appears in the following account.

'The Pawnee Loups heretofore exhibited the singular anomaly, amongst the American natives, of a people addicted to the inhuman, superstitious rite, of making propitiatory offerings of human victims to Venus, the *Great Star*. The origin of this sanguinary sacrifice is unknown; probably it existed previously to their intercourse with the white traders. This solemn ceremony was performed annually, and immediately preceded their horticultural operations, for the success of which it appears to have been instituted. A breach of this duty, the performance of which they believed to be required by the Great Star, it was supposed would

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

be succeeded by the total failure of their crops of maize, beans, and pumpkins, and the consequent total privation of their vegetable food.

'To obviate a national calamity so formidable, any person was at liberty to offer up a prisoner of either sex, that by his prowess in war he had become possessed of.

'The devoted individual was clothed in the gayest and most costly attire; profusely supplied with the choicest food, and constantly attended by the magi, who anticipated all his wants, cautiously concealed from him the real object of their sedulous attentions, and endeavored to preserve his mind in a state of cheerfulness, with the view of promoting obesity, and thereby rendering the sacrifice more acceptable to their Ceres.

'When the victim was thus sufficiently fattened for their purpose, a suitable day was appointed for the performance of the rite, that the whole nation might attend.

'The victim was bound to a cross, in presence of the assembled multitude, when a solemn dance was performed, and after some other ceremonies, the warrior, whose prisoner he had been, cleaved his head with the tomahawk, and his speedy death was insured by numerous archers, who penetrated his body with their arrows.

'The present mild and humane chief of the nation, Latelesha, or Knife-chief, had long regarded this sacrifice as an unnecesary and cruel exhibition of power, exercised upon unfortunate and defenceless individuals, whom they were bound to protect, and he vainly endeavored to abolish it by philanthrophic admonitions.

'An Ietan woman who was brought captive into the village, was doomed to the Great Star by the warrior, whose property she had become by the fate of war. She underwent the usual preparations, and, on the appointed day, was led to the cross, amidst a great concourse of people, as eager, perhaps, as their civilized fellow men, to witness the horrors of an execution. The victim was bound to the cross with thongs of skin, and the usual ceremonies being performed, her dread of a more terrible death was about to be terminated by the tomahawk and the arrow. At this critical juncture, Petalesharoo, son of the Knife-chief, stepped forward into the area, and in a hurried but firm manner declared that it was his father's wish to abolish this sacrifice; that for himself, he had presented himself before them, for the purpose of laying down his life upon the spot, or of releasing the victim. He then cut the cords which bound her to the cross, carried her swiftly through the crowd to a horse, which he presented to her, and having mounted another himself, he conveyed her beyond the reach of immediate pursuit; when,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

after having supplied her with food, and admonishing her to make the best of her way to her own nation, which was at the distance of at least four hundred miles, he was constrained to return to his village. The emancipated Ietan had, however, the good fortune, on her journey of the subsequent day, to meet with a war party of her own people, by whom she was conveyed to her family in safety.

'This daring deed would, almost to a certainty, have terminated in an unsuccessful attempt, under the arm of any other warrior, and Petalesharoo was, no doubt, indebted for this successful and noble achievement to the distinguished renown, which his feats of chivalry had already gained for him, and which commanded the high respect of all his rival warriors.'—vol. i. pp. 357—359.

The appendix to this chapter contains a catalogue of birds, which must prove highly interesting to the naturalist; and an extremely curious account of the language of signs, in extensive use among the different tribes of savages. The number and diversity of their dialects and the imperfection probably of all of them as mediums of communication, have led to a surprizing skill, in the use of this language of signs. The extremely arbitrary character of many of these signs makes us, however, somewhat sceptical, as to the extent to which they are used. Thus the third sign in the list is '*Darkness*, which is represented by the hands extended horizontally forward and back upward, passing one over the other, two or three times, touching.' If this be any thing different from the pantomimic representation of *groping*, it is evidently a complicated, arbitrary sign, indicative of more concert than we can readily attribute to the different savage nations with each other. The justice of these scruples is confirmed by the fact, stated by our authors, that the language of signs given by them differs in many symbols from the reports of other travellers. We mean not, however, to question a considerable use of these signs: but if, as our authors state, the members of different tribes, who by various chances have been incorporated with each other, remain for a long time unable to communicate by language,—the vehicle of thought which is acquired with greatest facility,—it cannot be presumed that any very detailed communication could take place between disconnected savage nations by means of signs highly arbitrary and conventional.

While the events related in the ninth chapter were trans-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

piring at the encampment, Major Long had accomplished his return to Washington, and on the twenty-eighth of May 1820, had again ascended to the encampment, having performed the journey from St Louis to the Council Bluff by land. Preparations were now made for pursuing the ulterior objects of the expedition. For a reason, which we shall presently mention, the farther progress of the party up the Missouri was countermanded by the Secretary at War, and an excursion by land to the source of the river Platte, and thence by the way of the Arkansa and Red rivers, to the Mississippi was ordered. The party organized for this route consisted of the following persons.

'S. H. Long, Major U. S. Topographical Engineers, commanding the expedition; J. R. Bell, Captain Light Artillery, to act as Journalist; W. H. Swift, assistant Topographer, commanding guard; Thomas Say, Zoologist, &c.; E. James, Botanist, Geologist, and Surgeon; T. R. Peale, assistant Naturalist; Samuel Seymour, Landscape Painter; Stephen Julien, Interpreter, French and Indian; H. Dougherty, Hunter; D. Adams, Spanish Interpreter; Z. Wilson, Baggage Master; Oakley and Duncan, *Engagees;* Corporal Parish, and six privates of the U. S. Army.

'To these we expected an addition, on our arrival at the Pawnee villages, of two Frenchmen, to serve as guides and interpreters, one of them having already been engaged.

'Twenty-eight horses and mules had been provided, one for each individual of the party, and eight for carrying packs. Of these, six were the property of the United States, being furnished by the commanding officer at Camp Missouri; the remaining sixteen were supplied by Major Long, and others of the party. Our saddles, and other articles of equipage, were of the rudest kind, being, with a few exceptions, such as we had purchased from the Indians, or constructed ourselves.'—vol. i. p. 425.

The circumstances of the case obliged the party to start with an inadequate outfit, for the difficult and dangerous excursion proposed, and it was not without expressions of derision on the part of the Indians who witnessed their small numbers, that on the sixth of June they took up their march. An attempt was made during the halt of the party among the Pawnees, to make them acquainted with the vaccine inoculation, but doubts are expressed by our authors, whether its nature and efficacy were comprehended by the Indians. The formidable ravages of the small pox, among a people so ill

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

provided with medical aid, would make this antidote a peculiar blessing. It is well known that the natives in South America had anticipated the observation of Dr Jenner, and were acquainted with the fact, that those who milked the cows were affected with a mild disease, by which they were protected from small pox.

In traversing the region between the Missouri and the Rocky Mountains, our travellers were in a great degree dependent on the bison, or buffalo, as he is usually called, for their support. The immense herds of this powerful animal, which throng the western plains, to which the progress of civilization has banished them from their former range over the greater part of the continent, form one of the most remarkable peculiarities of the region. The following animated account of an imposing scene will be acceptable to our readers.

'We rode on through the same uninteresting and dreary country as before, but were constantly amused at observing the motions of the countless thousands of bisons, by which we were all the time surrounded. The wind happening to blow fresh from the south, the scent of our party was borne directly across the Platte, and we could distinctly note every step of its progress through a distance of eight or ten miles, by the consternation and terror it excited among the buffalo. The moment the tainted gale infected their atmosphere, they ran with as much violence as if pursued by a party of mounted hunters, and instead of running from the danger, turned their heads towards the wind. Eager to escape from the terrifying scent, they pushed forward in an oblique direction towards our party, and plunging into the river they swam and waded, and ran with the utmost violence, in several instances breaking through our line of march, which was immediately along the left bank of the Platte. One of the party perceiving from the direction taken by the bull, that preceded the extended column of his companions, that he intended to emerge from the low river bottom, at a particular point, where the precipitous bank was worn by much travelling into a deep notch, urged his horse rapidly forward to gain this station, that he might have a near view of these interesting animals; he had no sooner arrived at this point, than the formidable leader, bounding up the steep, gained the summit of the bank, with his fore feet, and in this position abruptly halted from his full career, and glared fiercely at the horse, which now occupied his path. The horse, trembling violently from fear of this sudden apparition, would have wheeled and exerted his utmost speed, had he not been restrained by the greatest strength of his rider; he re-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

coiled however a few feet, and sunk down upon his hams. The bull halted but a moment, then being urged forward by the irresistible impulse of the moving column behind, rushed onward by the half sitting horse. The multitude came swiftly on, crowding up the narrow defile. The party had now arrived, and extending along a considerable distance, the bisons ran in a confused manner in various directions to gain the distant bluffs; numbers were compelled to pass through our line of march, between the horses. This scene added to the plunging and roaring in the river of those that were yet crossing, produced a grand effect, which was still heightened, by the fire opened upon them by our hunters. As they ascended the bank, innumerable opportunities offered of selecting and killing the fattest, and it was with difficulty we restrained our hunters from slaughtering many more than we needed.'—vol. i. pp. 480, 481.

On the thirtieth of June, the party obtained a distant view of the Rocky Mountains. The plains about them exhibited the phenomenon of the *Mirage*, in an uncommonly vivid manner. 'A herd of bisons, at the distance of a mile, seemed to be standing in a pool of water; and what appeared to us the reflected image was as distinctly seen as the animal itself.' On the sixth of July, the party encamped at the base of the Rocky Mountains, having reached the barrier, which bounds the plain of almost a thousand miles, over which they had travelled.

On the morning of the thirteenth, Dr James, by whom the work before us was drawn up for the press, took command of a small detachment destined to explore and ascend the 'Highest Peak,' as it is called in our maps; an elevation, which, though not the highest, in the opinion of our authors, lies, nevertheless, within the region of perpetual snow. It is very suitably named by Major Long, 'James' Peak.' The visit to it was accomplished with considerable difficulty; the thermometer sinking to 42° on the summit, while, in the encampment, it had stood at 96° the same day at noon, and did not fall to 80° till late in the evening. Having achieved this object, the party moved onward over the desert, to the banks of the Arkansa. Having encamped on this river, Captain Bell, with Dr James and two men, made an excursion up the river to the mountains, to explore its sources. Having effected their purpose, and returned to the encampment, the whole party, on the morning of the nineteenth, turned their backs on

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the mountains, and began to descend the Arkansa. 'It was not without a feeling of regret,' say our authors, 'that we found our long contemplated visit to these grand and interesting objects to be now at an end. More than a thousand miles of dreary and monotonous plain lay between us and the enjoyments and comforts of civilized countries. This we were to traverse in the heat of summer, but the scarcity of game about the mountains rendered an immediate departure necessary.'

On the twenty-first of July, a division of the party into two sections was ordered, of which the one under Major Long was destined to cross the Arkansa, and travel southward in search of the sources of the Red river; the other, under Captain Bell, to proceed down the Arkansa, by the most direct route, to Fort Smith. On the twenty-fourth, the two divisions started on their respective destinations. The length, to which our article has already extended, prevents our following the motions of either. Misled by the information of the Kaskaia Indians, and in some degree by the incorrectness of the maps, the party of Major Long mistook the Canadian river for the Red river, of which they were in search, nor did they discover their error, till their arrival at the confluence of the former and the Arkansa, when it was too late to retrace their steps. On the thirteenth of September, they arrived at Fort Smith, the place of rendezvous, which Captain Bell's party—by the direct route of the Arkansa—had reached before them. A different misfortune had befallen the latter party. In the course of their route, three of the soldiers of the party had deserted in the night, after plundering the company of whatever they could carry off, and taking with them, among articles more easily replaced, some whose loss was irreparable.

'Our entire wardrobe, with the sole exception of the rude clothing on our persons, and our entire private stock of Indian presents, were included in the saddle-bags. But their most important contents were all the manuscripts of Mr Say and Lieutenant Swift, completed during the extensive journey from Engineer cantonment to this place. Those of the former consisted of five books, viz. one book of observations on the manners and habits of the mountain Indians, and their history, so far as it could be obtained from the interpreters; one book of notes on the manners and habits of animals, and descriptions of species; one book containing a journal; two books containing vocabularies of the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

languages of the mountain Indians; and those of the latter consisted of a topographical journal of the same portion of our expedition. All these being utterly useless to the wretches who now possessed them, were probably thrown away upon the ocean of prairie, and consequently the labor of months was consigned to oblivion by these uneducated vandals.'

Shortly after this untoward accident, the party arrived at the place of rendezvous; where, being again within the pale of civilization, our imperfect analysis of their interesting narrative may close. To the detailed relation of the expedition of which we have attempted the foregoing abstract, succeeds a 'general description of the country traversed,' extracted from Major Long's report to the Secretary at War. This is a very judicious document, and will materially aid the reader in generalizing the information derived from the main work. The volume is closed by an appendix, consisting of astronomical and meteorological records, and vocabularies of various Indian languages. A considerable accession is made by the latter the stock of materials, in a study daily rising in interest. The Atlas contains two maps, comprising the country drained by the Mississippi, and some well executed engravings of scenes from Indian life and manners, and sketches from nature.—We do not think it necessary to enter into a minute criticism of the style, though it is occasionally less simple than we could wish. There is sometimes an affectation of scientific language, and it is not often that our authors are willing to make use of a less formidable word than *infract*, for *breaking* or *violating* a treaty. With this exception, the literary execution is highly respectable. We have already expressed a desire, on some other occasion, to enter into an examination of the scientific portion of the volumes. No expedition, which our government has sent into the West, appears to have been so well appointed, in respect to the investigation of nature.

There is but one sentence in the volumes, which we have read with shame and sorrow. It is that which gives an account of the causes for stinting the objects and abridging the extent of the expedition. 'It will be perceived,' say our authors, 'that the travels and researches of the expedition have been far less extensive, than those contemplated in the orders of the Secretary of War. The state of the national finances, during the year 1821, having called for retrenchments in all expend-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

itures of a public nature, the means for the farther prosecution of the objects of the expedition were accordingly withheld.' The state of our national finances! Some great calamity, perhaps, has befallen us. We have had the armies of all Europe quartered upon us, like France; we have had an overwhelming taxation, like England; we have been swept with the besom of civil and foreign war, like Spain; we have been incorporated into foreign empires, like Holland; cut up into confederations, like Germany; our substantial population has been sacrificed, perhaps, as in all the old countries, to the great abuses of government or the perilous convulsions of the times. Is it this, which has brought on the 'state of our finances?' Detestable parsimony! The only country but one in the world, that has not been reduced to an avowed or virtual bankruptcy; the country, which has grown and is growing in wealth and prosperity beyond any other and beyond all other nations, too poor to pay a few gentlemen and soldiers for exploring its mighty rivers, and taking possession of the empires, which Providence has called it to govern! One half of the wages of the members of Congress for the hours they have sagely devoted, from time to time, to the nauseous projects and petitions of Colonel Symmes and his moon-stricken disciples, would have enabled this party of gallant officers intelligent and scientific travellers, to enlarge the known boundaries of all the kingdoms of nature. Poor, indeed, we are in spirit, if not in finance, if we will not afford to pay the expense of making an inventory of the glorious inheritance we are called to possess. England, staggering and sinking under her burdens, can fit out her noble expeditions to the Niger and to the Pole. France has her intrepid naturalists in the farthest regions of Ethiopia. Botanists and mineralogists take their departure from Vienna, to go and traverse Brazil. Prussia sends her men of learning to copy manuscripts and study antiquities at Verona and at Rome. Russia, with her Krusensterns, and Kotzebues, and Lisianskis, is actually elbowing us out of the mouths of the Columbia. And even Mohammed Ali Pasha, the Turkish viceroy, the bey of Egypt, has his envoys at Marseilles, at Leghorn, and at Frankfort, to send him home the latest improvements. While these very prosperous, very flourishing countries, of whose aggregate national debt, the principal of ours would not pay six months' interest,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

can do all this, we cannot find a small party of discovery in powder and ball enough to hunt withal, or blankets and stroud-ing enough to trade with the Indians. If, indeed, this is the sense of the people, and of their representatives, let them be honest and *act* the poverty they allege and feel. Honest poverty is no shame in the single man or the state. If we are poor, let us put off these proud airs; truckle to the British, court the Russians, beg pardon of the Spaniards, and shake hands with the pirates. Let the president at Washington move into comfortable lodgings in the seven buildings, and his white palace be leased out as a hotel. Put Congress back into the brick tenement, from which it lately escaped, and convert the capitol into a cotton factory, that its halls may at length resound with no unprofitable hum. Get the British East India company to charter our extravagant frigates and seventy-fours; and see, in the last resort, if the emperor of Russia cannot be prevailed on to farm the valley of the Missouri at the halves. This would be manly, consistent, radical work; and when we had come down to this, we might have the face to talk of the low state of our national finances. But do not let us teach the people unnecessarily to grovel. Do not let us take the country at contract, to be administered by those, who will stoop to administer it most meanly. It is not grateful to Providence to be so covetous. Whoever believes that the sins of nations may sometimes be visited upon them, may well fear that this miserly policy, on the part of a people so highly favored, may draw down upon us a touch of real national poverty; an overwhelming national debt, an all devouring taxation, a dispensation of *assignats*, and a public bankruptcy. Who knows that a just retribution may not conjure up to plague us some Mississippi company; some South Sea scheme; some judicial *old tenor* at an unheard of discount; some *new emission*, a thousand for one; may not let loose a base coin upon our community, shake public credit, poison faith between man and man, turn certificates of stock into rags, and render it good husbandry—as it was twelve years ago in the Dutch cities—to pull down brick houses, for the sake of saving the tax? When any or all of these events have taken place, we may talk of our national poverty. Till then, it would be more reasonable, and quite as decent, to return thanks for the public prosperity.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ART. XVIII.—*The trve travels, adventvres, and observations of captaine Iohn Smith, in Europe, Asia, Africke, and America: beginning about the yeere* 1593, *and continued to this present* 1629.

The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Iles, with the names of the adventurers, planters, and governours from their first beginning, an. 1584. *to this present* 1626. *with the proceedings of those severall colonies and the accidents that befell them in all their iourneyes and discoveries. Also the maps and descriptions of all those countryes, their commodities, people, government, customes, and religion yet knowne. Divided into sixe bookes. By captaine Iohn Smith, sometimes governour in those countryes and admirall of New England. From the London edition of* 1629. 2 vols. 8vo, pp. 526. Richmond, 1819.

IN the fourth volume of the original series of this journal, a notice was given of the second portion of the work, now united as above. The edition now before us is an exact reprint, with the exception of the marginal index, of the folio editions of 1627–29. The life of Captain Smith he states in the dedication to have been prepared at the request of sir Robert Cotton, who had found by the perusal of his Virginia history, that Smith had 'likewise undergone divers other as hard hazards in the *other* parts of the world.' Another motive for writing the memoirs of his life we should have little expected, that 'envie had taxed him to have *writ too much* and *done too little*.' It is probable, this alludes to the disappointment, which was felt by the Virginia company at home, at the small returns derived at first from the colony, and the consequent unpopularity of Smith. All the commendatory poems, too, which, to the number of twenty-one, are prefixed to the life and the history, allude to the neglect and wrongs of the heroic adventurer. To satisfy the curiosity of his friends, and the malice of his enemies, therefore, this short memoir was written. One other incentive to this course is also contained in this sentence in the dedication. 'To speake only of my selfe were intolerable ingratitude; because, having had so many co-partners with me; *I cannot make a monument for my self, and leave them unburied in the fields*, whose lives begot me the title of a Soldier;'—a noble sentiment, finely expressed.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

These memoirs of Captain Smith are entirely without dates. He was born at Willoughby in Lincolnshire about 1579, and was left an orphan at thirteen years old, with, as he describes it, 'competent means.' His curious disposition, however, even before his father's death, had led him to attempt to raise the necessary funds for an escapade beyond sea, from the disposal of his 'books and satchell,' whence he declares he 'little regarded' his patrimony. His guardians, at his father's death, bound him apprentice to a rich merchant of Lynn, but 'because hee would not presently send him to Sea, he never saw his master in eight yeeres after. At last he found meanes' to attach himself to a son of lord Willoughby, who was going to France, to join his brother, placed there for his education. He received from his guardians, as an outfit on this occasion, an advance of ten shillings, from the rents 'of his own estate.' The young noblemen, however, found his 'services needless;' and perhaps their foreign tutors discovered them to be worse, so that within a month or six weeks, they sent him back to London, providing him for his expenses, a little more liberally it is to be hoped, than his friends at home. To return to the worthy Mr Thomas Sendall, however, was 'the least thought of his determination, being now freely at libertie, in Paris.'* Accordingly he remained here, till the supply of the lords Willoughby was exhausted, when he appears to have entered the French service. Peace being concluded in France, he transferred himself, in the true spirit of the European cavalier of those days, to the service of the States General. After three or four years spent in the Low Countries, he departed for Scotland, having been furnished at Paris, by one master David Hume, with letters for his Scottish friends, in lieu of 'some use made of Smith's purse' by that gentleman. 'After much kinde usage amongst those honest Scots,' unattended, however, with the advance of the proper pecuniary facilities for success at Court, he returned to his native place, 'where within a short time being glutted with too much company, wherein he took small delight, he retired himselfe into a little wooddie pasture, a good way from any towne, invironed with many hundred Acres of other woods: Here by a faire brook he built a Pavillion of

* The inclination of young men of Smith's age and character, to remain at Paris, is hardly to be wondered at, when the philosophic Julian describes it as 'dear Paris,' ἡ φίλη Λυτήτια.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

boughes, where only in his cloaths he lay. His studie was Machiavills Art of warre, and Marcus Aurelius; his exercise a good horse, with a lance and Ring; his food was *thought to be* more of venison than any thing else.' How long our young hero remained in this chivalric seclusion, reading Machiavelli and eating venison, he does not inform us. A certain Italian gentleman had sufficient attraction by his 'Languages and good discourse, and exercise of riding,' to draw him from the studies of the forest to the gay sports of the capital. As we observed above, he does not give the particular eras of his various changes of situation with much exactness, and we are unable to say how long he rode at Tattersall. We are only told, that 'long these pleasures could not content him, but hee returned againe to the Low-Countreyes.'

How long Captain Smith remained in the Low Countries does not appear. He became, however, sooner or later, desirous to 'see more of the world,' and to 'trie his fortune against the Turkes,' and expresses his regret at having practised his valor upon his christian brethren when there was so full employment for its exercise against the infidel. His first outset was rather unfortunate; four French gallants, who had promised him letters of credence to the duke Mercury, in the emperor Rodolph's service, having robbed him of all his money and baggage but a single Carolus. After wandering through France, in great want, even to suffering, occasionally varied by a little kindness from the martial courtesy of the age, whose 'pleasant pleasures' he yet thought ill suited his poor estate; and after having the satisfaction of wounding one of his false friends, he embarked at Marseilles for Italy. The ship, from stress of weather, was forced back to Toulon, and after another attempt to get to sea, was frustrated, our adventurer, who seems to have been undergoing a strict discipline for the future Virginia colonist, was thrown overboard to procure fair weather. Smith, in this juncture, had the good fortune to reach a little desert island opposite Nice. From this situation he was removed by a ship trading to Alexandria, with 'which he was well contented to trie the rest of his fortune.' On their return from Egypt, they met, off Corfu, a Venetian argosy, richly laden, which they took after a desperate fight of two hours. This success quite restored Smith's fortune for the time, and he disembarked with five hundred sequins, and a '*little box*

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

God sent him worth neere as much more,' and after visiting Italy, entered the Austrian service and repaired to Vienna.

'The noble Englishman,' as he is styled in the patent of a coat of arms granted him by Sigismund, duke of Transylvania, performed good service at Alba Regalis and Canitza. The following account of his well known single combats is certainly modest, his victory in each instance being attributed to accident or providence. A proposal was made by the Turks,

'That *to delight the Ladies*, who did long to see some court-like pastime, the Lord Turbashaw did defie any Captaine, that had the command of a Company, who durst combate with him for his head: The matter being discussed, it was accepted, but so many questions grew for the undertaking, it was decided by lots, which fell upon Captaine Smith, *before spoken of*.

'Truce being made for that time, the Rampiers all beset with faire Dames, and men in Armes, the Christians in Battalio; Turbashaw with a noise of Howboyes entred the field well mounted and armed; on his shoulders were fixed a paire of great wings, compacted of Eagles feathers within a ridge of silver, richly garnished with gold and precious stones, a Ianizary before him, bearing his Lance, on each side another leading his horse; where long he stayed not, ere Smith with a noise of Trumpets, only a page bearing his Lance, passing by him with a courteous salute, tooke his ground with such goode successe, that at the sound of the charge, he passed the Turke thorow [through] the sight of his Beaver, face, head and all, that he fell dead to the ground, where alighting and unbracing his Helmet, cut off his head, and the Turkes tooke his body; and so returned without any hurt at all.

'The death of this Captaine so swelled in the heart of one Grualgo, his vowed friend, as rather inraged with madnesse than choller, he directed a particular challenge to the Conquerour, to regaine his friends head, or lose his owne, with his horse and Armour for advantage, which according to his desire was the next day undertaken: as before upon the sound of the Trumpets, their Lances flew in peeces upon a cleare passage, but the Turke was neere unhorsed. Their Pistolls was the next, which marked Smith upon the placard; but the next shot the Turke was so wounded in the left arme, that being not able to rule his horse, and defend himselfe, he was throwne to the ground, and so bruised with the fall, that he lost his head, as his friend before him; with his horse and Armour; but his body and his rich apparell was sent backe to the Towne.

'Every day the *Turkes* made some sallies, but few skirmishes would they endure to any purpose. Our workes and approaches

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

being not yet advanced to that height and effect which was of necessitie to be performed; to delude time, Smith with so many incontradictible perswading reasons, obtained leave that the Ladies might know he was not so much enamoured of their servants heads, but if any Turke of their ranke would come to the place of combate to redeeme them, should have his also upon the like conditions, if he could winne it.' vol. i. pp. 16, 17.

What satisfaction the fair infidels felt at the successive return to the city of 'their servants' without their heads, may be easily imagined. Sigismund received Smith with great honor after his duels, and gave him 'three Turkes heads in a Shield for his Armes, by Patent under his hand and Seale, with an oath ever to weare them in his Colours, his Picture in Gould and three hundred Ducats, yeerely for a pension.' He was also discharged from his wish to return to his 'own sweet country.'

About four years of Smith's life being passed in this manner, he was at length wounded and taken prisoner. He was sold as a slave and carried to Constantinople, as a present to a young lady, of whose appellations we reject all but Charatza. This lady had been informed by her husband, who had purchased the English knight in the market at Axiopolis, that Smith was a Bohemian lord, conquered by his hand. Feeling a desire to practise her Italian with the handsome captive, in the course of conversation, she was set right upon this point, and like the fair Venetian soon felt a sympathy in the sufferings and losses which Smith related to her. This sympathy was manifested in a manner rather more inconvenient to Smith, than the subsequent attachment of our fair Virginia princess. Charatza fearing her captive might escape or be sold, sent him to her brother, *Bashaw* of a Tartar province, with a recommendation, judiciously informing him the slave was only to remain there 'till time made her *Master* of her selfe.' This procured the Englishman very severe treatment, which he at length resented, 'by beating out the Pasha's brains with his threshing bat,' for, adds he coolly in the same sentence, 'they have no flailes.' On the swift horse of his late tyrant, he was fortunate enough to reach a Russian garrison, whose governor, after proper precautions, relieved his wants. Due gratitude is here also given to the 'good lady Callamata' for her kindness, and our hero, fully recovered from his oriental sufferings,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

arrived at length among his old comrades in Transylvania. Here Sigismund gave him again thanks for his services, and the more solid gratification of fifteen hundred ducats in gold. 'With this he spent some time to visit the fair cities' of Europe, and found himself 'glutted with content and near drowned with joy.' After a short voyage to Africa, with the episode of a sea fight, Smith returned by sea to England, and thus closes the memoir of his life, prior to his Virginia voyage, embracing certainly a great variety of adventures for a youth of twenty-four years.

In the subsequent periods of his life, he becomes more interesting to us from his intimate connexion with the settlement of Virginia. The peculiarly romantic interest in the accounts of voyages of discovery, is of course more powerful in those, in which our own national history is involved. But apart from this association, the first incidents met with in landing on an uninhabited coast, are interesting in themselves, and from the situation of the adventurers become more so in their descriptions. The very circumstance of the first sight of a new country, to those who have been seeking its shores, through the hardships of a tedious voyage, and the suspense of an uncertain destination, must be a thousand times more delightful than the land air and pure water of St Helena to the weary ships from the Cape. Every thing is fresh, and healthy, and glowing, in the new shore and skies. The adventurers are surprised by the effects of a different climate, unaffected by the assimilating presence of art. The new character of the scenery and its vegetation must be a constant source of surprise and interest. Lofty trees of unusual species, covered with the thick growth of the unchecked parasitic plants, and new shrubs and flowers possessing the luxuriance derived from an unexhausted soil, are met by the colonists. The new varieties of animated nature are not less interesting and remarkable in the first discovery of a fertile country, and though in the wildest fertility of the fertile south, we doubt whether any but Chateaubriand would meet bears intoxicated with grapes, or sail under 'arches and bridges of wild vines and lianas,' yet less poetical travellers are enraptured with the novel forms of animated and vegetable nature which they behold. As the adventurers advance up the bays and rivers of the new territory, which seem vast and strange when without embankments, bridges or ship-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ping, still other varieties in the scenery present themselves. Every point in their progress is marked by some discovery. If ignorant, they find vegetable cochineal, and freight their canoes with glittering sand for gold dust;* if skilful, they meet with rare minerals and valuable medicinal plants; but above all, the original inhabitants of the soil in climates which can support a savage population, with their capricious hospitality and jealousy, afford abundant interest and adventure. But the obstacles, delays, and sufferings, in all new colonies, fully balance the extravagant anticipations of success usually entertained. In the instance of the settlement of Virginia, which one of sir Walter Scott's worthies describes 'as the land where gold grows,' these difficulties seem to have been peculiarly multiplied and harassing. They are detailed in 'the Generall Historie' with great minuteness. This portion of the work consists of a number of separate tracts by different authors, public documents, and letters from the proprietors, and finally various useful information to colonists both to Virginia and New England. Captain Smith's personal difficulties began, even before his first arrival, and it appears he was put into arrest, from the time of the ships' leaving the Canary islands. His prudence and eloquence, however, produced a proper effect on the company, and the president was sentenced to pay two hundred pounds fine for this duress. Many attempts to desert the enterprize and return were successively frustrated by Smith, and he was forced occasionally to have recourse to the guns of the fort to keep the pinnace, which he had fitted for discoveries in the bay, from sailing for England. Having penetrated about twenty miles inland, from his boat and company, he was at length surrounded and taken, and saved only by the well known courage and generosity of Pocahontas. This, the 'Emperor's dearest daughter,' was well worthy of an imperial title, if it adds to imperial grace and virtue. After saving him from a violent death, she protected him from famine by a constant supply of provisions; 'ever once in four or five days, Pocahontas with her attendants brought him so much provision that saved many of their lives, that else for all this had starved with hunger.' Her love for

*The contempt with which Capt. Smith mentions the credulity of his companions, in collecting many boatloads of micaceous soil, supposing it gold, with great delay and waste of means, is only one proof of his being a century in advance of most of the other adventurers.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Smith, and the plenty of the Emperor's household, assisted his 'sakre, falcon, and musket shot,' in the detention of his mutinous comrades. She is well known to have been constantly employed in good offices, between her father and the English, procuring the release of her countrymen, and acting as a hostage in the hands of the colonists. It seems the company in England had sent orders *to crown Powhatan*, at an expense which was thought disproportioned to the means of the colony. Captain Smith accordingly, with three or four companions, repaired to the king's wigwam, and while he was sent for, being thirty miles absent, 'Pocahontas and her women entertained Captain Smith,' in the following manner, which we quote as an example of a fête given by a Virginia princess of the blood royal, bearing a pretty fair comparison in point of social, intellectual delight, with certain more refined assemblies in later days.

'In a fayre plaine field they made a fire, before which, he sitting vpon a mat, suddainly amongst the woods was heard such a hydeous noise and shreeking, that the English betooke themselues to their armes, and seized on two or three old men by them, supposing Powhatan with all his power was come to surprise them. But presently Pocahontas came, willing him to kill her, if any hurt were intended, and the beholders, which were men, women and children, satisfied the Captaine there was no such matter. Then presently they were presented with this anticke; thirtie young women came naked out of the woods, their bodies all painted, some on one colour, some of another, but all differing; their leader had a fayre payre of Bucks hornes on her head and an Otters skinne at her girdle, and another at her arme, a quiver of arrowes at her back, a bow and arrowes in her hand; [*Qualis in Eurotæ ripis*] the next had in her hand a sword, another a club, another a pot-sticke; all horned alike: the rest every one with their severall devises. These fiends with most hellish shouts and cryes, rushing from among the trees, cast themselues in a ring about the fire, singing and dauncing with most excellent ill varietie, oft falling into their infernall passions, and solemnly againe to sing and daunce; having spent neare an houre in this Mascarado, as they entered, in like manner they departed.'—vol. i. pp. 194, 195.

We sympathize with the surprise of Captain Smith, at the determination of the English proprietors to crown Powhatan. This potentate rejected the proposal made to him to come to

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Jamestown, for the performance of this ceremony, and insisted, with some propriety, on its taking place in 'his own land.' The proper care does not appear to have been taken, to describe the ceremony with the necessary distinctness to Powhatan, and he appears to have had no conception of the moral and mysterious effect attached to putting on a gold hoop and crimson bonnet. The salute, too, appears to have produced a similar alarm to that which took place at the late coronation of the king of England, from an accidental direction of a pistol in line with his majesty's person.

'The next day was appointed for his Coronation; then the presents were brought him, his Bason and Ewer, Bed and furniture set vp, his *scarlet Cloke and apparell with much adoe put on him*, being perswaded by Namontack, they would not hurt him: but a *foule trouble* there was to make him *kneele to receiue his Crowne*, he neither knowing the maiesty nor meaning of a Crowne, nor bending of the knee, endured so many perswasions, examples, and instructions, as tyred them all: at last by leaning hard on his shoulders, he a little stooped, and three having the crowne in their hands, put it on his head, when by the warning of a Pistoll, the boats were prepared with such a volley of shot, that the King start vp, in a horrible feare, till he saw all was well. Then remembering himself to congratulate their kindnesse, he gaue his *old shooes and his mantell* to Captaine Newport,' &c.—vol. i. p. 196.

Soon after this event, it was discovered that an effect, rather unfavorable than otherwise, had been produced upon Powhatan by this ceremony and the presents accompanying it. The trade for provisions became embarrassed in consequence of the high prices asked for corn by the savages, and it was at last resolved by Captain Smith, 'whom no *perswasions* could *perswade* to starve,' to prevent the extremity of distress anticipated, 'to surprize Powhatan, and all his provision.' This prince had professed his willingness to freight the ship with corn, in exchange for certain commodities, and the assistance of some workmen in building him a house. Smith, accordingly, while preparing his expedition, having learnt that a plan was in agitation among the savages, to cut off his party, sent forward two '*Dutch*-men' and two English. These agents, particularly one of the former class, had been greatly relied on, for intelligence and fidelity, but being captivated by the plentiful table spread by the Indian prince, 'finding his plentie

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

and knowing our want,' betrayed the confidence of the English, and joined in Powhatan's design. The vigilance of Smith and the terror of his arms, however, defeated their purpose. The issue of this martial visit, therefore, was the supply of their present necessities by negotiation instead of violence. In the speeches between Smith and Powhatan on this occasion, it is impossible to deny, that the savage far exceeds the English knight, in point of intellectual vigor and dexterity. He wished to persuade him to *trade without arms*, and in the beginning of the negotiations addressed Smith as follows:

'Captaine Smith, you may vnderstand that I having seene the death of all my people thrice, and not any one liuing of those three generations but my selfe; I know *the difference of Peace and Warre* better than any in my country. But now I am old and ere long must die, my brethren, namely Opitchapam, Opechancanough, and Kekataugh, my two sisters, and their two daughters, are distinctly each others successors. I wish their experience no lesse than mine, and your loue to them no lesse than mine to you. But this bruit from Nandsamund, that you are come to destroy my Country, so much affrighteth all my people as they dare not visit you. What will it availe you to take that by force you may quickly haue by loue, or to destroy them that provide you food. What can you get by warre, when we can hide our provisions and fly to the woods? whereby you must famish by wronging vs your friends. And why are you thus iealous of our loues, seeing vs vnarmed, and both doe, and are willing still to feede you, with that you cannot get but by our labours? Thinke you I am so simple, not to know it is better to eate good meate, lye well, and sleepe quietly with my women and children, laugh and be merry with you, haue copper, hatchets, or what I want being your friend: than be forced to flie from all, to lie cold in the woods, feede vpon Acornes, rootes, and such trash, and be so hunted by you, that I can neither rest, eate, nor sleepe; but my tyred men must watch, and *if a twig but breake, every one cryeth, there commeth Captaine Smith:* then must I fly I know not whether. .....Let this therefore assure you of our loues, and every year our friendly trade shall furnish you with Corne; and now also if you would come in friendly manner to see vs, and not thus with your guns and swords as to invade your foes.' vol. i. pp. 208, 209.

We question whether the council room at the Tuilleries or Aranjuez, on those fortunate days when the board 'is presided' by the august puppets themselves, witnesses more good sense and good policy, than is uttered by the Virginia monarch.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

The replies of Smith bear marks of his indignation at the supposed treachery of Powhatan, and a scene soon ensued quite worthy of Naples and Genoa in the nineteenth century. A skirmish having ended in the defeat of the savages, Powhatan sent 'a great bracelet and chaine of pearle by an ancient oratour' to Smith, to renew the negotiations thus *entamés;* a manner of recommencing a treaty with a powerful party, not wholly unusual in later days. One other attempt was made to surprise the vigilant adventurer, which was defeated partly by her assistance, who has been emphatically styled 'the guardian angel of the English.'

'Notwithstanding the eternall all-seeing God did preuent him, and by a strange meanes. For Pocahontas his dearest iewell and daughter, in that darke night came through the irksome woods, and told our Captaine great cheare should be sent vs by and by: but Powhatan and all the power he could make, would after come kill vs all, if they that brought it could not kill vs with our owne weapons when we were at supper. Therefore if we would liue, shee wished vs presently to be gone. Such things as she delighted in, he would haue giuen her: but with the teares running downe her cheekes, she said she durst not be seene to haue any: for if Powhatan should know it, she were but dead, and so shee ranne away by her selfe as she came.' vol. i. p. 212.

Many successive attempts by violence and treachery, both on Smith personally and on the whole corps of adventurers, are detailed with minuteness. In addition to the qualities of an intrepid heart and cool head, our hero seems to have possessed the very convenient attributes of great personal strength and activity. In a personal encounter with 'a most strong stout salvage,' these accomplishments seem to have stood him in great stead. The Indian warrior having grappled Smith in a way to prevent his drawing his falchion, bore him by main force into the river to drown him. Rather a ludicrous effect is produced by the association of the dignified titles, under which the combatants on this occasion are described. 'Long struggled they in the water, till *the President* got such a hold on *the King's throat,* he had neare strangled him; but having drawne his faucheon to cut off his head, seeing how pitifully he begged his life, he led him prisoner to Iames Towne and put him in chaynes.' It would perhaps be as well for society, if disputes between potentates were arranged in this way more frequently.—We conceive it would be much more to the in-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

terests of humanity, for instance, if, instead of bringing half the slaves of Russia and Asia together, to slaughter each other on the Danube, Alexander and the Grand Seignior should arrange their differences in this manner of the President and King. If, on this occasion, the Commander of the Faithful were strangled, it would, of course, be perfectly in Ottoman etiquette, while a similar death could not be considered ignominious by Alexander, as he is belied, or he inflicted it on his father with the folds of his own sash.

Soon after the arrival of the great expedition under lord Delaware and others, Smith returned to England. His absence, which was the occasion of great loss and confusion to the English—topics which belong rather to their history, than his biography—must also have been sensibly felt by his lovely and imperial friend. That he had found leisure in the tumults and distresses of the new colony, to cultivate her friendship, may be imagined from the slight circumstance, that among the phrases illustrative of the native language, in the original, is 'bid Pocahontas bring hither two little Baskets and I will give her white beads to make her a chain,'—these phrases being of course, among those constantly in use. Whether the charms of Charatza or Callamata were too strong in his remembrance to admit a return to the love of the princess or not, the English captain never alludes to her in any other terms than gratitude, for her protection. After his departure, however, Pocahontas never went to James Town. She was at length persuaded to go on board an English ship in the river, and was detained there for near two years. Here 'Master John Rolfe, an honest Gentleman and of good behaviour,' fell in love with Pocahontas and she with him. A proposal for their marriage was accordingly made to Powhatan, which appears to have been very agreeable to him, and in consequence a treaty of peace was concluded and *kept*. Her husband carried her to England in 1616, and Smith immediately gave queen Ann a detailed account of all the services rendered by the princess to the colony, attributing the possession of the Virginia territory entirely to her assistance. Smith himself was about to sail for New England at this time, but had one interview with his friend and protectress. It seems Pocahontas *had been convinced of Smith's death;* and we know few relations more affecting, than the following, in its cold, plain sincerity.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

'After a modest salutation, without any word, she turned about, and obscured her face as not seeming well contented. But not long after, she began to talk, and remembered mee well what courtesies she had done: saying, You did promise Powhatan what was yours should be his, and he the like to you; *you called him father, being in his land a stranger, and by the same reason, so must I do you;* which, though I would haue excused, [as] I durst not allow of that title, because she was a King's daughter, with a well set countenance she said, Were you not afraid to come into my fathers Countrie, and caused feare in him and all his people, but me, and feare you here I should call you father; I tell you then I will, and you shall call me childe, and so I will be for ever and ever your Countrieman. *They did tell us always you were dead, and I knew no other till I came to Plymouth.*'—vol. ii. p. 32.

The princess was treated with kindness in England, was presented at court, and 'at the masks and otherwise to her great satisfaction and content.' She also, we are told, became 'very formal and civil after the English manner.' She died at Gravesend, having embarked for the outward passage.

Some account is given in the remainder of the second volume of the proposal made by Captain Smith to repress the savages, after the great massacre. This was rejected by the proprietors on the ground of the expense attending the project. The company somewhat inclined, however, to accept the offer on condition of having half the pillage, but when informed by Smith, that none was to be obtained—'I would not give twenty pound for all the pillage is to be got among the Salvages in twenty years,'—the plan of extirpating them was abandoned. The company appear to have endeavored to act with great and politic humanity, in the outset, towards the natives, and strict orders were issued to Smith and others to use no violent measures towards them, and he appears to have met with censure, on several occasions, for his forcible conduct. It may be doubted, though from the case of Pennsylvania it is not certain, whether this policy was practicable. Powhatan appears to have considered the settlements as the act of aggression, and from the idea he had formed of the power and resources of the English, to have anticipated, that it would have at least required all his own to expel them. The pacific policy is hardly to the taste of men in the situation of our colonists, and some sentences like this, from the compilation, show what course would have been to some more eligible :—'And

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

you haue twenty examples of the Spaniards how they got the West Indies, and forced the trecherous and rebellious Infidels to doe all manner of drudgery worke and slauery for them, themselues liuing like Souldiers vpon the fruits of their labours.'

A short account is given of his voyage to New England, and survey of its coast, and with these the account of his life ends. The materials for his biography, after this period, are extremely scanty. He died in London about 1625 or '27. The book concludes with a memoir on the New England fisheries, the importance of which Smith eloquently sets forth. 'Therefore honourable and worthy Countrymen, let not the meannesse of the word fish distaste you, for it will afford as good gold as the Mines of Guiana or Potassie with lesse hazard and charge and more certainty and facility.'

We have pursued Smith's personal adventures to the exclusion of the very interesting anecdotes of the settlement of Virginia, New England, and the Bermudas, with which they are interwoven. This book in its present form is extremely valuable, and does credit to the enterprise of the Franklin Press. The long title page, which we have copied at the head of this article, will afford a view of the contents of these documents, fully supported by the tracts themselves. This being the first reprint of Smith's memoirs, we have been led to make them the foundation of this article, though perhaps on the whole less novel, than the 'passages' in the general history of the adventurers.

ART. XIX.—*Das Goldene Vliess, Dramatisches Gedicht in drey Abtheilungen, von Franz Grillparzer.* Wien, 1822, 8vo.—*The Golden Fleece. A dramatic poem in three parts. By Francis Grillparzer.*

IT has been fashionable for several years in England to hold up its old drama as the boast and despair of its literature; to show how the efforts of its earliest and best writers were put forth in this department, and to complain, that those efforts have never since been rivalled. The dramatic art has come, in fact, to be considered as almost a lost art; and the reasons are discussed very seriously why no English authors of the present day can write tragedies as well as they were written

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

two centuries and a half ago. Perhaps this admiration of the ancient times is rather excessive, and men of taste have become worshippers too easily at those original fountains of the national poetry. At least we are inclined to think so, except when we remember Shakspeare, and he stands in every respect alone. When there appears another genius like his in any part of the great field of literary invention, it will be soon enough to take shame for the comparative meagreness and poverty of modern pieces for the theatre. It is indeed a remarkable circumstance in the history of polite letters in Great Britain, that the stage was once the chief centre of attraction for the poetical talents of the finest writers, and became afterwards a province, either given up to inferior minds or attempted by the most powerful without success. A great exertion seems to be making now to retrieve this dishonor, and to carry the effect of dramatic description to its former difficult eminence. It remains to be seen whether this exertion will be prospered; and whether we are not yet to have plays that shall be splendid offsets to the extravagances of Thomson and Young, that shall comfort us for Cato, which is good only in the closet, and for Irene, which is too heavy even for that, and even make us forget such beautiful failures as Marino Faliero and Sardanapalus. The highest rank attained of late years in this kind of composition must be assigned to Miss Baillie, who has done much towards effacing the old reproach; but her tragedies, though full of spirit and possessing a strong scenical interest, would not be found very manageable at the theatre, and certainly an aptness to public exhibition is an important consideration in the plan of every dramatic work.

We find a very different state of things, on turning to the Germans. Their whole literature is new, and their drama, which forms an honorable part of it, began with Lessing in the middle of the last century. He was followed by Schiller and Goethe, whose merits are amongst us but little understood. Schiller is known to mere English readers only by his prose; and they for the most part judge of him by poor translations of those works of his youth, The Robbers, Fiesco, and Intrigue and Love;—while such pieces as his Mary Stuart and The Maid of Orleans remain shut up in their own glowing verses. Goethe, whose genius is the pride of Germany, has been introduced to but few of our readers, except in the coarse

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

sketches and dull bustle of Goetz of Berlichingen, and in some fragments of Faust, translated in the most inadequate manner by Madame de Stael:—inadequate, indeed, it had of necessity to be; for how could the close, nervous lines of the German bard be represented by the diffuse weakness of French periods in prose? But something a little more faithful we had a right to expect.—The names of Werner, Kotzebue, Gerstenberg, and Klinger come next on the list, and though of celebrity among their countrymen, would probably obtain little praise among us, even though they were presented in the most accurate and graceful translations. The language which they employed was that of conversation and not of poetry; and this unfortunate respect was the only one in which they could be called natural. With them and their imitators must be chronicled the reign of false taste and a turgid style, and Kotzebue stands as a comforting exception among them to the prevailing love of the revolting and horrible.—Other writers, however, have arisen of a different stamp, faithful to the dignity of the drama, to its approved rules and noblest models. Among the poets of this redeeming character, Collin of Vienna takes high place, whose taste is continually doing homage to the chaste and holy forms of classical antiquity, while he joins to that reverence the fervor of his own free imagination. There seems every reason to believe, that the Germans are destined to produce most finished specimens of dramatic poetry. Their attention is much given to this branch of the art, and competitors for distinction in it abound. They are idolaters of Shakspeare, and at the same time deep students of the Greeks. They have gained as eminent a name in Europe for their invention and fancy, as for the depth of their literary and scientific researches; and their rich, powerful language has a flexibility with it, that fits it for the most delicate purposes, and makes it equal to the most difficult achievements. With all these advantages, and all this promise, there may reasonably be expected no common degrees of excellence.

From the work before us, we cannot hesitate to place Mr Grillparzer in that honorable company of authors, which we last mentioned. It is written in irregular verse with great freedom and spirit—full of action, though the leading incidents, which form its materials are so few—and full of the deepest interest, though these incidents are so familiar to us. The

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

story is of the wildest and most revolting kind; yet it is so managed, as never to disgust us, and scarcely to seem improbable. The characters are so true to nature, that every thing else seems natural. Each is consistent throughout, though continually disclosing something new, and thus we are presented with faithful and striking pictures of the developments and changes of human feelings. The Medea particularly is conceived and sketched in the happiest manner, and we remember no heroine, who better deserves or would more closely tax the powers of the Siddonses and O'Neils. It is like coming from a hall, where some solemn pageant has been exhibited, into the open air and the community of the wide world's fortunes and passions, to rise from the stately declamation of Corneille's Medée, and then give ourselves up to the emotions of the scene in hearing Grillparzer's 'wild maid of Colchis.' The public will have to decide whether Madame de Stael was not too hasty in pronouncing that Greek subjects are exhausted. She does not allow that any one but Le Mercier has been able 'to reap new glory from an ancient theme,'—though the manner in which she speaks of Goethe's Iphigenia in Tauris may not easily be reconciled with such an exclusive decision. At any rate we are not willing to believe, after the experiment now on our table, that there will not be other poets to divide success with Le Mercier.

We mean to give our readers a description, at some length, of this book, not fearing that it will be found tedious. It is called a dramatic poem; but we must not be misled by this title to imagine, that it is like those which Mr Milman is fond of composing, with very finished descriptions and very beautiful lyrics, and a great deal of gorgeous poetry, but without any skilful plan, and dramatic in scarcely any thing but being conducted in the form of dialogue. It consists of two regular tragedies, one in four and the other in five acts, which are preceded by an introduction in one act, itself a tragedy. This introduction is called The Guest. It places us in Colchis, and sets before us at once the princess Medea in the character of a proud and wayward, but beautiful huntress, who, surrounded by her maidens, is preparing to offer up in sacrifice a deer, which she has just killed. By the sea-shore stands the altar, and on it a colossal figure with a golden fleece thrown over its shoulders, representing the paternal god of the king. The

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

manners of Medea show themselves to be sufficiently rude and imperious; her conversation with her father Æetes is none of the most dutiful; and she banishes for ever from her presence Peritta, one of her maidens, for having preferred home and a lover to the forest and the chase. In vain the poor girl endeavors to explain, that it was not of her own will; she is interrupted by the following rebuke:

'O hear now!
She would not and she did! Go, thou speak'st folly.
How could this happen, hadst thou wished it not?
What I do that I will, and what I will—
—Well, be it, many a time *that* do I not.
Go to thy shepherd's stupid cottage, go;
There sit with smoke and vapors foul about thee,
And raise thy pot-herbs on a span of ground.
My garden is the immeasurable earth,
The heavens' blue pillars are Medea's house.
There will I stand, the free air of the mountains
Opposing with a breast as free as they,
And look down on thy meanness and despise thee.
Ho! to the wood! ye maidens, to the wood!'

There is now an alarm, that armed strangers are just landing on the coast, having great treasures with them. Æetes, afraid of their weapons, and wishing to possess himself of their wealth, apprizes his refractory daughter of their coming, and prevails on her by coaxing and threats to prepare a sleeping potion for them, according to the magical arts, which she had learned from her mother. Warlike music is now heard, and a messenger approaches:

'*Messenger.*
The chief, my lord, of the coming strangers—
Æetes.
What will he have? My diadem? My life?
I still have heart, I still have strength,
The blood rolls still within my veins,
To barter death for death.
Messenger.
He asks but for an audience.
Æetes.
Asks?
Messenger.
In friendship but to converse with thee,
And form a covenant of peace.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Æetes.

Asks? And has the might in his hands!
Finds us unready, he in armor,
And asks?—the fool!'

The king tells the messenger they may come within his walls, but without sword, shield, or spear; and bids him, after bearing this message, gather friends speedily from all sides well armed, and have them concealed in waiting. Phryxus now appears at the head of his Greeks, carrying on his lance like a banner a golden fleece. He stops in astonishment at the sight of the statue, and then kneeling down before it returns acknowledgments, as to a protecting divinity. He informs Æetes, that he is a Greek of divine descent, and his kinsman. He relates that he has been driven from his home by the injustice of a stepmother; and that while he slept one night in the temple of Delphi, he saw in a vision a form like the statue before him, which took off from its shoulders the golden fleece that hung over them, and, offering it to him, said with a smile, 'take victory and vengeance.' He awoke, and the image was before him, glittering in the morning sun. 'Colchis' was engraven on its base. He snatched the fleece from the image. It gave him safe conduct through the midst of his enemies; he fastened it to his mast, and the storms and waves had no power over him. And now he had come to ask for a resting place in the land, and if refused, was ready to vindicate it for himself, relying on the aid of the gods and on the pledge which he carried of victory and vengeance. The king receives him uncourteously, but bids him and his companions to a banquet within. They enter the palace, and Medea in following is shocked to learn the murderous intentions of her father, which she endeavors in vain to alter. Phryxus soon rushes out, suspecting treachery from the looks of the Colchians and the stupor that was beginning to fall on his friends. A tumult and the clang of weapons within confirms the worst of his fears, and he himself, in spite of the efforts of the princess, is slain by Æetes. His last words are:

'That which he loves the dearest prove his ruin!
And may that fleece, which now his hand is grasping,
Look down upon the slaughter of his children!
He has the stranger slain, who came his guest,
And robbed him of the wealth he trusted to him—
Revenge! Revenge!'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

A wild strain of grief and horror now breaks from Medea, which we cannot undertake to translate in its original measures. Over thee, over all! wo! wo! she exclaims as she rushes out, and while Æetes stretches out his hands after her the curtain falls.

The second part is called The Argonauts. The scene opens by night in a wild rocky part of the Colchian coast, with a ruinous tower in the back ground, from the upper window of which a feeble light is glimmering. Æetes and Absyrtus, his son, make their way through the bushes Absyrtus discloses, by degrees, a bold but tender and dutiful character, and the father shows himself the prey of a sullen and fearful remorse. They knock and call at the tower for Medea, who, after uttering within her prophetic 'wo!' at length reluctantly descends. She has on the dark red garments and black veil of her incantations, and all her words are mysterious and appalling.

'*Æetes.*

Hast thou asked of the signs, the stars?

Medea.

A hundred times have I looked up
To the glittering signs
Of the firmament of night,
And all those hundred times
My gaze was sunk to earth,
Struck with dread and all untaught.
The heaven seemed to me a wide-unfolded book,
And death was written there a thousand times,
And vengeance there in diamond letters
Upon its sable ground.
O do not ask the stars in their high spheres,
Ask not the signs of nature in its silence,
Ask not within his shrines the voice of God.
Watch in the stream the wandering planets' orbs
That from its dark depths look awry* at thee,
The signs that guilt has written on thyself,
The voice of God that's uttered in thy bosom:
They will give thee oracles
Surer far than my poor art,
From that which is and was, to that which soon shall be.'

Æetes now explains the object of his seeking her. The Argonauts have come to avenge the death of Phryxus, and

* Jeremy Taylor speaks of the 'unwholesome breath of a star looking *awry* upon the sinner.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

recover the golden fleece. He demands, he implores her help, and she is prevailed on at last to attempt something on his behalf. The king and prince go into the tower, and after this soliloquy Medea follows:

'Wretched father! wretched man!
They start up now before my eyes
The fearful forms of gloomy prophecy,
But all veiled and turning away,—
I cannot discern their features,
Show yourselves WHOLLY, or disappear,
And leave me to rest,—a dreamy rest.
Wretched father! wretched man!
But yet can the will do much—and I *will*,
Will show him safety, will make him free,
Or—come the worst—will perish with him!
Secret art, which my mother taught me,
Which forcest thy stem to the air of life,
And thy roots mysteriously
Sinkest down to the gulfs of the lower world,
Be present now! for Medea *will!*
To work then!
[*To some maidens who appear at the entrance of the tower.*]
And you, my aids in this service,
Prepare now the trenches, prepare now the altar!
Medea will to the spirits cry,
To the gloomy spirits of dreadful night,
For help, for counsel, for courage, for might.'

The Argonauts, it seems, had grown disheartened at the desolateness of the coast, the failure of provisions, and the want of some guide in this strange country. Jason had left them, in the company of only one friend, determined to bring them relief at every hazard; and he now appears with Milo before the tower. The light from its window attracts him, and by climbing through an aperture in its walls, which he is able to reach after plunging into the sea, he surprises the beautiful enchantress in the midst of her incantations. Medea has time to be filled with a strange admiration of the heroic stranger, and he to return in some degree the sentiment, before Absyrtus enters with some armed men. Jason is here made to owe something of his safety to her good offices, and cuts his way through the assailants. He is evidently an imperious, impetuous warrior; and it is for these very dispositions, for his haughtiness as well as his courage, that Medea

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

has begun to love him. The effects of this new passion on her pround mind are described in the second act. At first she becomes absent and subdued. She expresses no anger, when informed of the escape of her favorite steed, through the negligence of one of her attendants; and when Peritta meets her eye she shows particular kindness to her, and softens even into tears at the mention of the happy days they had once seen together, and the wretchedness that had followed. She tries to believe it was no man, but a divinity, whom she had met at the tower; and when it is proved to be Jason, and her father reproaches her for feeling any favor towards the chief of his enemies, pride, shame, and resentment, are seen to be conflicting with her love, and she exhorts Æetes to lose no time in preparing destruction for the strangers. The charmed cups are again made ready, and brought to the Argonauts, while they are in fierce parley with the king, demanding restitution, and rejecting all his dangerous proffers of hospitality. Jason is willing, at the sight of Medea, to drink of the cup she offers; but her resolution fails, and she forbids him to drink his death from her hands. At this new deliverance he becomes more impassioned of her, and attempts to carry her away with him; a battle ensues, and the Greeks are beaten back to their camp. At her next interview with her father, she does not wait for his reproaches, but bids him exterminate at once with the sword the *whole* crew of the strangers; she acknowledges that it had not been in her power to prevent at first her passion for Jason, but declares herself determined to banish it now. The third act discovers her an involuntary prisoner in the camp of the Argonauts, where we have a highly finished scene. To all the protestations of her lover she maintains an obstinate silence, till he impatiently turns away from her as unworthy of his affection; and presently gives her into the arms of Æetes who arrives to demand her. But as he is taking his leave of her, half in tenderness and half in anger, her spirit gives way; she avows her affection, and endeavors to produce a reconciliation between him and the king. The attempt fails of course. She receives the curse of her father, who casts her off forever, denouncing shame and misery on her in a foreign land, and desertion by the very man for whom she is willing to leave country and home. She shrinks from his imprecation with a misgiving mind, but is

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

now Jason's. The fourth act brings us to a deep cavern where the golden fleece is guarded: and here the tempers of Jason and Medea are finely displayed. He will not listen to her entreaties nor heed her threats, but persists with an unfeeling sternness in his resolution to carry off the fleece at every hazard; and at length, wholly through her assistance, the fatal treasure is secured. The scene is now the sea-side, and the Greeks are preparing to embark. An affecting interview here takes place between the noble-hearted Absyrtus and his sister, who seems already half to repent her rash choice, but it is too late. The young prince, after having been wounded by Jason, throws himself into the sea, rather than be kept as a hostage among his enemies, and the despair of the father and the departure of the Argonauts conclude the piece.

The third part is called Medea, and contains that portion of the story which is treated in the tragedies of Euripides, the pseudo-Seneca, and Corneille. In this play are strongly depicted the aversion and persecution which Jason experienced on returning home the husband of a Colchian sorceress;—the weaning of his affection from her on account of these misfortunes, though he felt his honor and honest pride concerned in carrying her with him as he wandered from city to city;—and the withering effect which his coldness and her own sorrows had on her high spirit. They have taken refuge at Corinth, where they are received, though with something of mistrust, by the king Creon, between whose daughter and Jason there had grown up, in very early youth, a mutual attachment. This attachment revives, as they repeat together the tales of other times, and call past scenes and words to the minds of each other; and Medea, who had determined to accommodate herself to her hard fortunes and give her husband all the love she could command, soon finds that Creusa has his whole heart. She had known him before to be selfish and vain-glorious; she was now to find him treacherous and cruel. A herald from the Amphyctionic council appears at the court of Creon, and demands the banishment of both the strangers. Creon, who has become fond of Jason, and regards him as clear from all the charges against him, offers him his daughter and kingdom on condition that Medea is forever banished from him and disowned. The condition is complied with. Medea is commanded to depart before night fall, and her two chil-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

dren are not only detained, but learn to fly from her. Her mind is now wrought to madness; and at this moment there is brought to the king of Corinth, who had been demanding the famous fleece, a chest figured over with strange characters. It had just been dug up by some workmen in preparing the foundation for an altar to the shade of Pelias, and had plainly been recently laid in the earth. She saw it with the wildest emotion; for it contained with the fleece and some precious vessels those magical charms which had once given her so much power, and which, on reaching Corinth, she had solemnly buried, as she meant, forever. Her plan of vengeance is at once taken, and the catastrophe is too well known to be repeated. The tragedy concludes, like Corneille's, with a scene between Jason, again a fugitive, and Medea; but this is the only resemblance. Medea has no chariot, drawn by dragons, to escape with, and Jason's expressions of anguish are, we think, much more tragical than the easy resort of an 'il se tue.'

After this analysis of the plot, we will conclude this article, by giving some specimens from the last play of the author's manner.

Medea, [*burying the chest.*]

First, then, the wand of the goddess and the veil;
Rest here, for never will I use you more!
The time of night and magic is gone by,
And what befalls, be it or good or evil,
Befalls me in the open beam of day.
Now for this casket; secret flames it hides,
Quick to consume whoever rashly opes it.
These others filled all with precipitate death,
Away from out the precincts of the living!
Yet many an herb and stone of darkest power,—
To the earth from which ye sprang, I give you up.
So, rest ye there in quiet and for ever!
The last is wanting still, and that the weightiest.—
Let me once more behold thee, fatal present!
Thou witness of my house's overthrow,
Wet with a father's and a brother's blood,
Thou signal of Medea's shame and guilt!
Thus do I snap thy staff, and thrust thee down
To night's black bosom, whence thou cam'st to kill.

Medea to Creusa. [*The scene is in the palace of Creon.*]

I look upon thee and I look again,
And scarce can satisfy me with the sight.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Thou soft and virtuous, fair in form and soul,
The heart, like thy white drapery, pure and spotless!
Send but a ray of thine own heavenly nature
Into this sore and grief-distracted breast.
What sorrow, hate, and wrong have written on it
Efface in patience with thy holy hand,
And set, instead, thy own clear traces there.
The strength, which from my youth had been my pride,
Has in the conflict all been feeble shown;
O help me make my weakness strong again.
Low at thy feet shall be my refuge place,
And I'll complain of what they've done to me,
And learn of thee what I should bear and do.
Like one of thine own maidens will I serve thee,
Will teach my hands to labor at the loom,
And all that work, which is with us despised,
And left as servile task to menial fingers,
But here is thought employment fit for queens;—
Forgetting that my sire was Colchis' king,
Forgetting that my ancestors were gods,
Forgetting all that's past and all that threatens—
—No! that can never be.

Medea, Jason, and Creusa.

Medea, [*with a lyre.*]

Jason, I know a song.

Jason to Creusa.

And then the tower!
Know'st thou the tower, that stands by the sea-side,
Where thou stood'st with thy father, and did'st weep,
As I embarked for the long, perilous voyage?
I had no eye then for those tears of thine,
Since only for exploits my heart was thirsting.
A gust blew off thy veil and wafted it
Into the sea; I plunged into the waves,
And caught and treasured it in memory of thee.

Creusa.

Hast thou it still?

Jason.

But think how many years
Have passed since then, and borne thy keep-sake with them.
The winds have taken it.

Medea.

I know a song.

Jason.

Thou calledst to me then: Farewell, my brother!

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Creusa.

And now I call to thee; my brother, welcome!

Medea.

Jason, I know a song.

Creusa.

She knows a song,
Which thou didst sing once; listen, she shall sing it.

Jason.

O yes! where was I then? This cleaves to me
And mocks me from the visions of my youth,
And many a time I dare to dream and talk
Of things which are not and can never be.
For as the youth lives in futurity,
The man must live in converse with the past;
Who is there learns to live the present wisely?
Then was I an adventurous, honored hero,
And had a fond wife, and success, and wealth,
And some secure place for my children's slumbers.
[*To Medea*] What wilt thou then?

Creusa.

To sing a song to thee,
Which thou in former days hast sung with us.

Jason.

And *thou* sing that?

Medea.

As well as I may.

Jason.

Indeed!
Wilt thou with a poor song of other years
Restore to me those years with all their promise?
Nay, leave that! we will hold to one another,
While it is ordered so, and as we can,
But nothing more of songs, and such soft things!

Creusa.

Yet let her sing it! She has tasked herself
Till she has learnt it, and now——

Jason.

Well, well, sing.

Creusa.

The second string, rememberest not?

Medea, [*sorrowfully.*]

Forgotten!

Jason.

Seest thou? I told thee it would nought avail;
Her hand is practised to a different measure.
She sang the dragon to his charmed sleep,
And that was other sound than thy pure strains.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Creusa. [*prompting.*]

O ye gods!
High throned gods!

Medea.

O ye gods!
High throned, and terrible, and righteous gods!
[*The lyre falls from her, and she covers her face with her hands.*]

Medea and Jason, after her banishment.

Medea.

And must I forth? Well, then, so follow me!
Be mutual as the guilt the penalty.
Dost know the ancient vow? Alone shall neither die;
One house, one flesh, and one destruction!
In the very face of death, we swore this oath,
And now fulfil it, come!

Jason.

Wilt thou provoke me?
Away from me, thou bane of all my days,
Who hast despoiled me of my life and fortune!
Away into the wilderness, thy cradle,
To the fierce race which bore thee in its likeness.
But first give back to me what thou hast taken;
Give Jason back to me, thou wicked woman!

Medea.

Would'st thou have Jason back? Here—Here receive him!
But who will give Medea to herself?
Have I sought thee in thy far distant home?
Have I enticed thee from thy father's care?
Have I on thee e'er forced my love—aye forced it?
Have I torn thee from thine own land away,
And given thee up to strangers' scoffs and scorn?
Thou call'st me wicked woman?—O, I am so,
But how have I been guilty, and for whom?
Let these pursue me with their poisoned hate,
And banish, slay,—they do it but in justice;
For I am an abhorred and dreaded being,
Even to myself a terror and a gulph;
Let the whole world denounce me,—only thou not!

Medea, sitting by her sleeping children. [*In Act IV.*]

What would I give, could I but sleep like you!
The night comes on, the stars are shining forth,
Looking to earth with their soft, quiet light;
The same to-night that yesternight they beamed,
As if all else was now as then it was:
Yet measureless fields of air are spread between,
As if to part twixt glory and corruption!

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

So changeless, like those orbs, all nature is,
So full of change is man with all his fortunes.

Scene the last.

[*A wild, solitary country, enclosed with trees and rocks. A cottage in view.*]

Peasant.

How fair the morning rises! Gracious gods!
After the tempests of this dismal night
Your sun lifts up himself with a new beauty.
[*Goes into the cottage.*]

[*Jason comes feebly in, leaning on his sword.*]

I can no farther. Wo!—My head's on fire,
My blood boils through its veins, my parched tongue stiffens.
Is no one there? Must I thus die alone!
Here is the hut, which used to give me shelter,
When once, a wealthy man, a wealthy father,
I hither came, full of new wakened hopes. [*Knocks.*]
Only one draught! only a place to die in!

Peasant, [*coming out.*]

Who knocks? Poor man, who art thou? Faint to death!

Jason.

Only one cup of water! I am Jason,
The hero of the fleece! a chief, a king,
The Argonautic leader, Jason I!

Peasant.

And art thou Jason? Then away with thee!
Pollute my house not with thy hateful tread.
Hast thou not slain the daughter of my king?
Then ask not help before his subjects' doors.
[*Returns into the hut.*]

Jason.

He goes, and leaves me in the open way,
In the dust, for travellers to tread upon.
Death, I invoke thee, bear me to my children. [*Sinks down.*]

Medea.

[*Advancing from behind a rock, and standing before him, with the fleece like a mantle thrown over her shoulders.*]

Jason!

Jason, [*half raising himself.*]

Who calls? Ha! see I right? Thou there!
Monster! Must I still have thee in my sight?—
My sword! my sword!—O wo is me! my limbs
Refuse their office now, spent, spent, and useless.

Medea.

Forbear, thou harm'st me not! I am an offering
To bleed before another hand than thine.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Jason.

Where has thou laid my children?

Medea.

They are mine!

Jason.

Where hast thou laid them?

Medea.

They are in a place
Where it is better with them, than with us.

Jason.

Dead are they, dead!

Medea.

Thou think'st the worst thing death.
I know one that is worse far,—to be wretched.
Hadst thou not valued life at greater price,
Than it deserves, it were not thus with us.
Ours is the suffering, which our boys are saved from.

Jason.

Thou speak'st thus, standing calmly?

Medea.

Calmly! Calmly!
Were not my bosom still shut up to thee,
As it has always been, thou would'st see anguish,
Which rolling boundless, like a fiery sea,
Engulphs the single fragments of my sorrow,
That welter, lost in the horrible infinite.
I mourn not that the children are no more,
I mourn that they were ever—that we are.

Jason.

O wo! wo!

Medea.

Nay, bear what is laid upon thee,
For well thou know'st thyself has brought it down.
As now thou liest on the bare earth before me,
So once lay I before thee, when in Colchis,
And prayed thee to forbear, and thou forbor'st not!
Blindly and madly thou would'st grasp the hazard,
Though I still cried to thee; thou graspest death.
Then take what thou so proudly didst demand—
Death.—As for me, I now am parting from thee
For ever and for ever. 'Tis the last time—
Through all eternity it is the last—
That I shall ever speak to thee, my husband.
Farewell!—After all the joys of earlier days,
In all the sorrows which now darken round us,
In front of all the grief that's yet to come,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

I bid thee now farewell, my husband.
A life all full of trouble breaks upon thee,
But whatsoe'er betide, hold out,
And be in suffering greater than in action.
Would'st thou give way to anguish, think on me,
And comfort take from my far heavier sorrow,
Who've wrought the work you only left unfinished.
I go away, the insupportable smart
Bearing forth with me through the lone, wide world.
A poniard's stroke were mercy—but not so!
Medea shall not by Medea perish.
My early years of life have made me worthy
A better judge, than lost Medea is.
I go to Delphos. At the fatal altar,
Whence Phryxus bore the golden fleece away,
Will I restore to the dark god his own,
Spared sacred even by the bloody flame,
That folded round the form of Corinth's princess.
There will I show me to the priests, and ask them
Whether my head shall fall in sacrifice,
Or they will drive me to the furthest deserts,
In longer life to find but longer torture.
Know'st thou the sign, for which thou hast so struggled,
Which was thy glory, and which seemed thy good?
What is the good of earth? A shadow!
What is the fame of earth? A dream!
Thou poor man! who hast fondly dreamt of shadows!
The dream is broken, but the night endures.
Now I depart—Farewell, my husband!
We who for misery found each other
In misery separate. Farewell!

Jason.

Alone! deserted! O my children!

Medea.

Bear it!

Jason.

All lost!

Medea.

Be patient!

Jason.

O for death!

Medea.

Repent!
I go—and ne'er again your eye beholds me!

[*As she turns to depart, the curtain falls.*]

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ART. XX.—*The Life of Francis Bacon, Lord Chancellor of England. By Mr Mallet.* A new edition. London, 1822.

THE name of lord Bacon, with the single exception of that of sir Isaac Newton, is the first in the modern philosophical world. Mr Hume, indeed, whose habitual moderation seems in this instance to have gone to the extreme of coldness, has suggested the idea, that the English, out of national feeling, have exaggerated the merits of their illustrious philosopher. He compares him with Galileo, and seems inclined to place him below both that philosopher and Kepler. 'Italy,' says he, 'not united in any single government, and perhaps satiated with that literary glory, which it has possessed, both in ancient and modern times, has too much neglected the renown, which it has acquired by giving birth to so great a man as Galileo. That national spirit, which prevails among the English, and which forms their great happiness, is the cause why they bestow on all their eminent writers, and on Bacon among the rest, such praises and acclamations, as may often appear partial and excessive.' The general truth of this observation is indubitable. We feel unwilling to acquiesce in its application to Bacon. And as that great man, in his will, has appealed to posterity in these pathetic terms: 'for my name and memory, I leave it to men's charitable speeches, and to foreign nations, and the next ages:' we take the greater interest, after this interval of time—and in a quarter of our country, which was firs settled by civilized men, a few months before the fall of Bacon—in examining into the justice of the stigma left on his name.

In the first place, we cannot but remark, that the intimation, which Hume has given, that lord Bacon's reputation has been produced by the extravagant commendations lavished on him by his countrymen, is manifestly unjust. The learned of foreign nations certainly *took the lead* in his praise, and it would require but a superficial search of the philosophical literature of the continent of Europe, since the age of Bacon, to produce as numerous and as animated testimonies to his merits, as are to be found in the British writers. At the present day, as is well known, the *Baconian* philosophy has become synonymous with the *true* philosophy, and there is certainly no perceptible difference in the manner, in which it is commended by foreign and British writers. That the remark we just made is correct, beginning from the age in

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

which lord Bacon himself lived, down to the present time, will appear from one or two citations, which we give as we find them, in the Biographia Britannica, under the article of Bacon. Puffendorf says of him: 'The late most wise chancellor of England was the chief writer of our age, and who carried, as it were, the standard, that we might press forward and make greater discoveries in philosophic matters, than any with which the schools had rung; so that if in our time, any great improvements have been made in philosophy, there has been not a little owing to that great man.'—Voltaire, in his letters to the English nation, calls him the father of experimental philosophy, and expresses his surprise at finding the doctrine of attraction, usually regarded as the foundation of the Newtonian philosophy, expressly taught in the writings of Bacon. Considering that Mr Hume has ascribed a portion of his high reputation to the partial and excessive praises of his countrymen, it is curious to observe the author of the learned life of Bacon, in the Biographia Britannica, reproaching the English with neglect of their great philosopher's merits, and with leaving to foreigners to study and applaud his philosophy.

But it is not into a controversy with regard to the philosophical character of Bacon, that we propose to enter. The coolest of his admirers are ready enough to commend him in that respect; and the general confession of his countrymen and of foreigners, of his own age and of posterity, assigns him a rank high enough to satisfy any ambition. It is because he stands by all acknowledgment so high as a philosopher; because he was and is the scientific boast of his country and age, and of all who speak the English tongue; because to his literary studies and attainments—of themselves enough to fill a common life—he added an eminence in the most difficult profession attained by few, a rank in the legal world, a reputation as a statesman, an orator, a lawyer, a judge, that compares honorably with that of any of those who aspire to this reputation alone; because with these splendid intellectual endowments and public qualities, he united the most happy and polished manners, and all the graces of private life; and because, finally, he had the rare skill of being able by his pen to set forth all his wonderful talents and mighty acquisitions: it is because he is allowed, almost without a dissenting voice, to have been and to have done all this, that we would fain go

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

further, and ask whether too ready a belief has not sanctioned the blot on his moral fame? Have not men, willing to credit so much to the glory of lord Bacon, been too willing to attribute to him weaknesses and crimes, which one would gladly think incompatible with all the noble qualities he possessed? In short, having saluted him as 'the wisest, brightest,'—have not men been too ready to take the epigram of the poet on trust, and call him the 'meanest of mankind'? The ordinary principles of human nature would suggest an answer in the affirmative. We are often shocked with astonishing mixtures of the good and bad, the great and mean in character; but the best and the worst, the greatest and the meanest, if they met in Bacon, never perhaps met in any other individual.

We do not wish, at the same time, to play the panegyrist of his character. At this distance of time and of place, to wish to do this would be an amiable, but a puerile weakness. We do not wish, because lord Bacon's moral character has been under a cloud, to go to the other extreme, and maintain that he was as conspicuous for stern, unbending Roman integrity, as for eloquence and science. The heroism of virtue, like the heroism of the cabinet and the heroism of the field, is partly a matter of temperament. No quality excites so high admiration, as none perhaps is on the whole so rare. But we do not hold it necessary to the character of a good man, that he be able to approve himself a Regulus or a Cato; and especially under arbitrary governments and in semi-barbarous ages, when the axe and scaffold are the ordinary paraphernalia of state, it is quite too much to say, that no one is entitled to be called a good man, if he do not stand ready to seal his integrity by laying his head upon the block. Many great men *are* obliged to seal their integrity by this sacrifice; having been cast into so narrow, so arduous, so desperately defined a path of duty, that their whole moral being is pledged upon it, and they must forfeit their name or die. This was the case with Sydney. His bright name could not have shone a moment, had he faltered in the trial. But had Socrates, at the advice of his disciples, broken his prison and escaped, who would have condemned him? The philosophical but homely poet of the present day says,

> 'That all men would be cowards, if they dare,
> Some men have had the courage to declare.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

And it was precisely this courage, which lord Bacon exercised, and to which he sacrificed, or at least put in jeopardy, his moral standing, rather than disobey his master, by defending himself. When then we deny to lord Bacon this heroism or chivalry of virtue, we have perhaps done all that is required by truth. To proceed, however, as far as possible on conceded ground, we may agree with Hume, that 'he wanted that strength of mind, which might check his intemperate desire of preferment that could add nothing to his dignity, and might restrain his profuse inclination to expense that could be requisite neither for his honor nor entertainment.' Admitting this to be fairly stated, and we shall take occasion, in the course of the present article, to show, that it would bear qualification, we need not point out to our readers, that if carefully weighed, it is less reproachful than it seems. To want that strength of mind, which could check the intemperate desire of preferment, is, we presume, in briefer terms, 'to be very ambitious.' We readily grant this to be an infirmity of character, but instead of making a person 'the meanest of mankind,' it has been declared 'to be the last infirmity of *noble minds*.' There is no proof, that Bacon carried his ambition higher, than to the first dignities of the profession, to which, from his youth, nay from his cradle, he had been destined. Queen Elizabeth, in his infancy, used to pat his head, and call him 'her little lord keeper;' and we confess it seems to us no very inordinate ambition for a man, who at every stage of his course had evinced powers equal to this early promise, to aspire to the place, which he so long filled and adorned. That he aspired to any other, we behold no indication; that in attaining to this and some of the previous stages of his preferment, he was obliged to resort to solicitations, which we now read with pain, is true; but signally entitled to be considered in his own words as one of the *vitia temporis*, not *vitia hominis*. It is the most unquestionable curse of all governments, not strictly popular, that so much power and patronage are in the hands of the individual prince; who, if he be as weak as James, may bring all the great minds in his dominions to the footstool of himself and his favorites. We have but to read the history of any monarchy, absolute or limited, to behold the greatest men obliged to bow to the caprices of weak or perverse sovereigns. We shall see the Walsinghams and Cecils, outraged by Eliza-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

beth, under the influence of her unworthy passion for Leicester and Essex. We shall see Marlborough, after breaking the power of Louis XIV, obliged to put up with insults from Mrs Masham; and Walpole taking the lie from George I, with the remark, 'that my memory must fail me, when his majesty says to the contrary;'—a reply which Mr Coxe is pleased to call manly and spirited.* Lord Bacon was forced to that alternative, which so many other great men have been called to—the choice between being deprived of the honors and rewards, to which his talents were entitled, and for which Providence formed and marked him out, and submitting to the degrading conditions attached to their attainment, adulation of their royal dispensers. There is but one happy land where no degree of this necessity exists. It lieth near to Plato's republic, and its name is Utopia. In all other regions, with which history and observation make us acquainted, the lords sovereign or lords popular require a sop from all, who would pass through their gate into the elysium of office; and so far is merit from being the only qualification, that even in our own country, and in reference to an office within the people's gift, the infamous maxim is proclaimed and acted on, 'that the characters of all candidates for place are fair game to be hunted down.'

That lord Bacon, however, really was guilty of the intemperate desire of place ascribed to him, may certainly admit a doubt. Though his patrimonial fortune was slender, and he was obliged to seek his subsistence by the profession of the law, and the sting of necessity was thereby added to his ambition, yet he sacrificed his great opportunities of rising under queen Elizabeth, either to his principles of duty or gratitude. That his letters to Burleigh, who was his uncle, should contain requests for employment, may well be true of such an uncle and such a nephew, without fixing a reproach of grasping ambition on the latter; and it was his honest defence of the popular side in parliament, and his attachment to the unhappy Essex, that cost him his hopes from the queen.

This brings us to the first charge against the character of lord Bacon—his ingratitude to Essex. We shall relate it in the words of Mr Mallet. Essex, to whose use and service Bacon had for many years, to use his own words, 'dedicated his travels and studies,' had solicited a place for Bacon, and

* Life of sir Robert Walpole, i. 188.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

having been refused, through the interest of the Cecils, had presented Bacon an estate, which the latter afterwards sold for eighteen hundred pounds.

'A bounty so noble,' says Mallet, 'accompanied too, as we know it was, with all those agreeable distinctions that, to a mind delicately sensible, are more obliging than the bounty itself, must kindle, in the breast of a good man, the most ardent sentiments of gratitude, and create an inviolable attachment to such a benefactor. What, then, are we to think of Bacon, when we find him, after this nobleman's unhappy fate, publishing to all England a *declaration* of the *treasons of Robert, Earl of Essex?* This behaviour drew upon him a heavy and general hatred at that time, which was not extinguished even by his death, but continues still, in the writings of more than one historian, a reproach on his memory.'

It is not necessary to repeat this well known and interesting portion of English history, and fortunately for the reputation of Bacon, he has left a formal apology for the part which he took in the trial of Essex. The circumstances are briefly these. The court and kingdom were divided between two powerful parties, that of the Cecils on the one side, and that of Essex, the personal favorite of the queen and the popular idol of the people, on the other. Bacon was of the Essex party, and personally the confidential friend of this unhappy nobleman; and this circumstance cost him his advancement at court, though lord Burleigh, as we have observed, was by *marriage his uncle.* The gift of eighteen hundred pounds, which Mr Mallet calls 'a bounty so noble,' was the only specific obligation which Bacon owed to Essex;* and as for the favor of his intimacy and friendship, however these things may be estimated at court, it may be thought perhaps, that Bacon conferred as great a favor on Essex, as Essex did on Bacon. We know how these things are usually stated. The powerful, noble, wealthy patron, whom age, birth, and office, give a control over all within his reach, is thought to do all the favor, and confer all the honor. The young, industrious, ingenuous candidate, devoting his precious hours, his talents, his heart, to the hard service of a master, is under all the obligation. But in this there is no justice. For every act of friendship that passed between Essex and Bacon, we protest we think the ob-

* Perhaps not more than Bacon's rightful share of the £300,000 lavished at different times on Essex by the queen.—Hume v. 494.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ligation on the nobleman's side. To talk of the great favor done by a nobleman, whose birth, fortune, and person, are his only endowments, to a mind like Bacon's, is to talk the language of a court almanack, or a book of peerage; and is in truth poor adulation of wealth and place. It appeared on Essex's trial, that Bacon had been his faithful friend; and, as we have already remarked, he sacrificed his prospects with the queen and the Cecils partly to this friendship. Nor is there any ground to charge him with deserting Essex, till Essex had deserted himself, and engaged in those mad schemes which brought him to the block. Even after his return from Ireland, Bacon labored both with the queen and with Essex, to retrieve the desperate affairs of the latter, and it was only when Essex formed his last preposterous project of seizing the queen, for which he was found guilty of high treason by every one of the lords, that Bacon gave over the attempt to serve him. The trial, which is contained in the first volume of the state trials, was managed by sir Edward Coke, the attorney general, and by Bacon, as one of the queen's council. Called thus officially to assist in the prosecution of the unhappy earl, he discharged his duty in a manner honorable to his feelings. 'It ought not to be forgot,' says Mallet, 'that sir Edward Coke treated this unfortunate nobleman with a strain of petulant dulness and scurrility, that makes us contemn his talent as a pleader, while we abhor the purpose to which he made it subservient. Bacon was moderate and decent.' The truth is, that Bacon was more than moderate and decent; he scarcely made his appearance in the trial. The report of it, in the state trials, appears to be very exact, and the speeches evidently given as they were spoken. From this report it appears, that Bacon opened his mouth but once, till appealed to by the earl of Essex, nor did he make any thing that could be called a speech in the course of the trial. In fact he took virtually the course which he is usually condemned for not taking; that is, he forbore to bear an active part in the prosecution. Indeed, the charge made against Bacon by his enemies, at the time, was, not that he assisted at the trial, or was guilty of severity to the earl in the mode of conducting it, but he was slanderously accused of having solicited the queen to be employed on that service. That this was the charge at the time, appears sufficiently from his reply.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

'For that I performed at the bar in my public service, your lordship knoweth by the rules of duty, that I was to do it honestly and without prevarication; but for any putting myself into it, I protest before God, I never moved either the queen or any person living, concerning my being used in the service, either of evidence or examination, but it was merely laid upon me, with the rest of my fellows.'

We have urged this, in some measure, in consequence of a remark by Mallet, that, as sir H. Yelverton, at the risk of offending the king and Buckingham, refused to conduct the prosecution against Somerset, who had procured him the office of solicitor; so Bacon ought to have refused to conduct the prosecution against Essex. The truth is, that he did not conduct it; it was managed by the attorney general, sir E. Coke; and Bacon, moreover, owed the earl of Essex no such favor, as Yelverton had received from Somerset.

The account which Hume has given of this transaction is not distinguished by his usual perspicuity, and he appears to have confounded, in some degree, the circumstances of Essex's examination before the council, on his return from Ireland, with the trial of Essex and Southampton for treason, after the uproar in London. He observes, that Bacon appeared against Essex before the council, *in obedience to the queen's commands*; but he afterward says, that he *volunteered* his services against Essex, on the trial for high treason, not being of the crown lawyers. Besides that Bacon most solemnly denies this fact, and protests that the duty of taking a part in the trial was laid on him with his fellows; it is not easy to perceive what difference Hume meant to set up, in his official duty, at the examination and at the trial, by which Bacon was constrained to appear at the one, and not at the other. It appears also, that Hume confounds the *report* of the proceedings of the council, which Bacon, by command of the queen, drew up, but which was suppressed, and, as Bacon says, never seen by five persons, with the *declaration* of the treasons of the earl of Essex, a formal statement made by Bacon, also at the queen's command, of the crimes of Essex, and the proceedings against him. This important document, on which the charge of ingratitude against his patron has by some writers been mainly founded, is not mentioned by Hume. But as Hume has justly stated of the *report* of the doings of the council, so in the *declaration* after the trial, Bacon, instead of aggravating the crimes of his friend,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

and urging his fate, as he is charged with doing, employed all his masterly skill and eloquence to put the best face on his actions. With regard to the first, we quote the words of Hume:

'Bacon, who wanted firmness of character more than humanity, gave to the whole transaction the most favorable turn for Essex; and in particular painted out, in elaborate expression, the dutiful submission which that nobleman discovered in the defence which he made for his conduct. When he read the paper to her, she smiled at that passage, and observed to Bacon, that old love she saw could not easily be forgotten. He replied, that *he hoped she meant that of herself.*'

This account Hume has transcribed from Bacon's apology, as contained in the Cabala, nor do we know why Hume should refer to that unauthentic collection, rather than to the same document, in the works of lord Bacon. Be this as it may, the same remark may be made of the formal *declaration* of the treasons of the earl of Essex. Bacon himself thus mentions it:

'It is very true also, about that time, her majesty taking a liking of my pen upon that, which I had formerly done concerning the proceedings before the council, and likewise upon some former declarations, which in former times, by her appointment, I put in writing, commanded me to pen that book, which was published for the better satisfaction of the world; which I did, but so as never secretary had more particular and express directions and instructions in every point how to guide my hand in it. Not only so, but after that I had made a first draught thereof, and propounded it to certain principal counsellors, by her majesty's appointment, it was perused, weighed, censured, altered, and made almost a new writing, according to their lordship's better consideration, wherein their lordships and myself both were as religious and curious of truth as desirous of satisfaction; and myself indeed gave only words and form of style, in pursuing their directions, and after it had passed their allowance, it was again exactly perused by the queen herself, and some alterations made again by her appointment. Nay, and after it was set to print, the queen, who, as your lordship knoweth, as she was excellent in great matters, so she was exquisite in small, and noted that I could not forget my ancient respect to my lord of Essex, in terming him ever *my lord of Essex*, *my lord of Essex*, almost in every page of the book, which she thought not fit, but would have it made *Essex*, or *the late earl of Essex*; whereupon of force it was printed *de novo*, and the first copies suppressed by her peremptory command.'*

* Bacon's Works, iv. 441.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

If this affair then is candidly weighed, it will not, we apprehend, appear that Bacon was guilty of ungrateful behavior to the earl of Essex. It is plain that the obligations of Bacon to Essex are overrated, that Bacon served him as long as it was possible to do it, without being implicated in his mad schemes; that he actually injured himself with the Cecils and the queen, by his fidelity to Essex; that so far from taking an active part in his downfall, he did nothing but discharge his official duty as a crown lawyer, and that without severity or harshness; on the contrary, that he softened and extenuated the crimes of his friend and patron.

One more remark only we make on this subject. Mallet, with various other authors, affects to speak of this supposed treacherous behavior of Bacon, as bringing him into *universal* odium; and they would represent his apology, which we have already quoted, as extorted from him by the voice of the indignant world, condemning his breach of faith. For all this there is no foundation in fact; neither is it in itself probable. The court was at first divided into two parties, of which that of Essex was one. No one can suppose that the conduct of Essex, which brought him to the block, added to the number or zeal of his friends; or that his party, at the moment that he, its leader, was cut off, had any claims to be identified with the nation. The most that can be claimed for it is, that it was still a powerful party. And this party it was that clamored against Bacon, as it was very natural they should do; not that his conduct was in itself reprehensible, but because it was a matter of course, that a man of his prominence, once a friend and counsellor of Essex, should, by appearing against him on his trial, give umbrage to his violent friends. In all party controversies, one side or the other, and accident often decides which, gets possession of the confidence of posterity; and it has happened, in this case, that the Essex party, unable to defend their chief, have managed to cast an odium on Bacon, for having, as they say, deserted him. This does not go beyond the fair limit of party clamor; but not to perceive that this *is* party clamor, to call it the general voice, to suppose, upon the whole, that Elizabeth and the Cecils thought meanly of Bacon for having supported the government on this trying occasion, at their command; or that the mass of intelligent minds in England, who attach many sacred feelings of duty to

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the sovereign's person—and did so doubtless much more in the days of Elizabeth than now, were disgusted that Bacon not only did not conspire with Essex, but actually appeared in his place as a crown lawyer on his trial, argues extreme simplicity.

How much injustice has been done, throughout this affair, to Bacon's character, and how uprightly and independently he carried himself in the difficult path, which all in high place were obliged to tread, is plain from his conduct in the house of commons against the demand of the triple subsidy. Notwithstanding his situation at court as a crown lawyer, and the implied obligation of not opposing the measures of the ministry in the house, he defended the popular side, on the demand of this subsidy, and thereby incurred the displeasure of Burleigh. In short, the whole history of lord Bacon, in Elizabeth's reign, is that of a mild, moderate, conscientious man, estimated by all parties, but unwilling to sell himself to either, and, as usually happens in such cases, coldly looked on by both. Under James the advancement of Bacon was regular and rapid; and having passed through various steps of honor and office, he received the seals as lord keeper in 1617, and in 1619 the title of lord chancellor; having previously filled the offices of attorney and solicitor general. In this course of advancement, lord Bacon had acquired or preserved the favor of the king and his favorite, without sacrificing the good will of the house of commons. We give this in the words of the treatise before us:

'The parliament that met in 1614, though extremely out of humor with the ministers in general, distinguished Bacon by an uncommon mark of favor and confidence. An objection having been started in the house of commons, that a seat there was incompatible with the office of attorney general (which Bacon at that time held) which required his frequent attendance in the upper house; the commons, from their particular regard to sir Francis Bacon, and for that time only, overruled the objection, and he was accordingly allowed to take his place among them. If I observe further, that the king raised him to the dignity of a privy counsellor, while he was still in this very office, it will be instead of many instances to show, with what an addressful prudence he steered his course betwixt the court and the nation. He was thus favored by a prince, who exacted from all his servants an implicit submission to his maxims of government: he

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

gave no umbrage to a parliament, whom these maxims had rendered jealous of the prince and of almost every man in his favor.'

Lord Bacon was raised to the title of chancellor in 1619; in 1620 he published his most famous philosophical work, the *Novum Organum;* in 1621 he fell from his honors and offices into disgrace and ruin. This is the memorable event in his life, on which the charges against his moral character are chiefly founded. As he had no opportunity to defend himself against the charges and was never confronted with the witnesses; as the witnesses against him were examined chiefly by the committee of parliament; as he was driven by the will of his master to plead guilty to the charges and wave his defence,—we cannot but think it a matter of justice to a great and honorable name, to look carefully into the causes which have fixed a stigma upon it. At any rate, if we mistake not, the details of this important trial will be interesting to our readers.

It is unnecessary to relate at length the state of England at this period. The king, besotted with his prerogative, and despotically ruled by Buckingham, gave up the nation to be plundered by the favorite, his family, and creatures. The most oppressive monopolies were granted by royal patent; and the grossest frauds added to the oppression of the privileges themselves. The indignation of the people was at length roused, and as the irregular and extraordinary means, by which James and Buckingham had sought to raise money without the aid of parliament, began to fail, it was found necessary in 1621 to call them together. They met accordingly, and having with great promptitude voted two entire subsidies, for the purpose of supporting the rights of the king's son-in-law in the palatinate, they went into a strict inquiry into those arbitrary impositions, that for seven years had been practised upon the people, till they had become insupportable. The wrath of the commons first fell upon *Mompesson* and *Michel*, who had rendered themselves odious and infamous by their frauds as patentees of the monopoly of gold lace. The proceedings of the house of commons in this case were highly popular; and though the investigations disclosed that sir Edward Villiers, the half brother of the favorite, was associated with the patentees, it was beyond the power of Buckingham to arrest the proceedings. The disposition, which the commons showed to search into abuses, invited all the discontented to

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

prefer their complaints, and lord Bacon intimates, in his letter to the lords, that particular industry was exerted to bring up the complaints against himself. These complaints were at length urged too loudly to be disregarded; and a committee was raised on the twelfth of March to inquire into abuses in the courts of justice. On the fifteenth of March 1620, this committee reported by sir Robert Phillips, that abuses in the courts of justice had been presented to them. His report in part is as follows:

'I am commanded from the said committee to render an account of some abuses in the courts of justice, which have been presented to us. In that which I shall deliver are three parts. 1st. The person against whom it is alleged. 2d. The matter alleged. 3d. The opinion of the committee.

'1st. The person against whom it is alleged is no less than the lord chancellor, a man so endued with all parts, both of nature and art, as that I will say no more of him; being not able to say enough.

'2d. The matter alleged is corruption.

'3d. The persons by whom this is presented us are two, Aubrey and Egerton.'

These two cases of Aubrey and Egerton were the only ones at first presented. That of Aubrey was as follows. Aubrey had a suit in chancery against sir William Bronker. Thinking that his cause went on slowly, he was advised to compliment the lord chancellor with one hundred pounds. Being poor, Aubrey raised the money with difficulty, and gave it to sir George Hastings, his counsel, to deliver to the lord chancellor. Sir George was a member of parliament, at the time the investigation took place, and gave his testimony by request before the committee. He testified that he delivered the lord chancellor the one hundred pounds which Aubrey had given him, but adds, that 'he did it not in Aubrey's name, but in his own.' Aubrey's cause advanced none the better for this gratuity. He wrote many letters to the chancellor, but got no answer, and the cause went against him. Such briefly was the leading case. In his short answer to the charges, lord Bacon replies to this (which, from standing at the head of the articles, was finally engrossed as the sixteenth) merely as follows: 'I do confess and declare, that the money was given and received; but the manner of it I leave

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

to the witnesses.' We suppose here that lord Bacon alluded to the testimony of sir George Hastings, that he had given him the money as from himself; and we argue from the withdrawing of this article from the place it filled, at the head of the list, that it was thought of less moment on investigation, than it had at first appeared.

The second case, that of Egerton, was more complicated. It consisted of two articles. The first was, that, in the cause between sir Rowland Egerton and Edward Egerton, 'the lord chancellor received three hundred pounds, on the part of sir R. Egerton, before he had decreed the cause.' To this charge, in the only brief defence he was permitted to make, lord Bacon replies:

'I do confess and declare, that, upon a reference from his majesty of all suits and controversies between sir Rowland Egerton and Edward Egerton, both parties submitted themselves to my award, by recognisances reciprocal in ten thousand marks each. Thereupon, after divers hearings, I made my award, with the advice and consent of my lord Hobart. The award was perfected and published to the parties, which was in February. Then, some days after, the three hundred pounds mentioned in the charge were delivered to me. Afterwards Mr Edward Egerton flew off from the award. Then, in midsummer term following, a suit was begun in chancery by sir Rowland to have the award confirmed. *And upon that suit was the decree made mentioned in the article.*'

From this statement, two things appear relative to the three hundred pounds: first, that it was not given *pendente lite*, the *lis* being in fact closed, when the award was made; and secondly, that Edward Egerton, incensed at losing his cause, stirred up the complaint against the chancellor, for having been bribed by his kinsman and opponent.

The second article of this charge is, 'that in the same cause he received from Edward Egerton four hundred pounds.'—This, we presume, is the case, which has led to the common remark, that lord Bacon took bribes from both parties, Edward Egerton being the other party in this suit. To the charge, as we have just stated it, lord Bacon replied as follows:

'I confess and declare, that soon after my first coming to the seal, being a time when I was presented by many, the four hundred pounds mentioned in the said charge was delivered unto me in a purse, and as I now call to mind, from Mr Edward Egerton;

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

but as far as I can remember, it was expressed by them that brought it to be for favors past, and not in respect of favors to come.'

Our limits do not permit us to go through all the specifications finally made out, twenty-eight in number, and of which these two, originally the first made, afford a fair specimen. We will quote one or two only, which will lead our readers probably to the opinion, that a good deal of disingenuousness was used against lord Bacon by personal enemies, apparently by discontented and malicious servants, in raking up, (to use an expressive vulgarism,) under the name of bribes, what in common fairness could not be so considered. Thus the third article in the charge is for receiving 'in the case of Hodie and Hodie a dozen of buttons, (after the cause ended) of the value of fifty pounds.' To this lord Bacon replies:

'I confess and declare, that as it is laid in the charge about a fortnight after the cause was ended, *it being a suit for a great inheritance*, there were gold buttons about the value of fifty pounds, as is mentioned in the charge presented unto me, as I remember, by sir Thomas Perrott and the party himself.'

In like manner,—'In the cause between Kenneday and Vanlore, he received a rich cabinet from Kenneday, appraised at eight hundred pounds. To this charge lord Bacon replies:

'I confess and declare, that such a cabinet was brought to my house, *though nothing near half the value*, and that I said to him that brought it, that I came to view it and not to receive it, and gave commandment that it should be carried back, and was offended when I heard it was not. And about a year and a half after, as I remember, sir John Kenneday, having all that time refused to take it away, as I am told by my servants, I was petitioned by one Pinkney, that it might be delivered to him, for that he stood engaged for the money, that sir John Kenneday paid for it; and thereupon sir John Kenneday wrote a letter to my servant Sherborne, with his own hand, desiring I would not do him that disgrace, as to return that gift back, much less to put it into a wrong hand. And so it remains yet ready to be returned to whom your lordships shall appoint.'

But we return to the progress of the trial.—As we stated above, the committee appointed by the Commons to inquire into abuses in the courts of justice, on the 15th of March 1620, reported the lord chancellor to be charged with corruption, alleging the two cases of Aubrey and Egerton. The subject

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

was recommitted, without comment, to the same committee, with directions to resume their sitting the afternoon of the same day. Two days after, they reported again, stating, 'that the principal thing wherein they had desired to be satisfied was, whether at the time of giving those gifts to the lord chancellor there were any suit depending before him.' This they affirm to have been the case in Aubrey's affair; and in Egerton's they detail somewhat more at length the circumstances mentioned above. They also produce testimony, from which it appears, that in Aubrey's case the lord chancellor had been exceedingly urged to give a favorable decision, with the menace, if he did not, of making known, that he had received a bribe, to which it was testified, that lord Bacon replied, 'he should deny it upon his honor.' No detail of evidence, nor cross-examination is extant, by which the limitation of this denial can be ascertained. As the main fact was susceptible of proof, that he had received the three hundred pounds, it is probable the lord chancellor meant to deny that he had received it as a bribe; it having been brought him with other presents, shortly after his accession to the seals, and avowedly in acknowledgment for past favors. The committee close their second report as follows, the chairman saying:

'That which I move is, that we present this business singly to the Lords, and deliver it without exasperation; 1°. Because there is but one precedent for it,* in the like case for a chancellor in a case of corruption. 2°. Because the party accused is a peer of the kingdom, sitting in the higher house, whom we cannot meddle with. 3°. Because we have no power to give an oath.'

A short debate ensued, in which sentiments favorable and hostile to lord Bacon were uttered, and in which his old enemy, sir Edward Coke, spoke against him, but without bitterness; and it was ordered, that the complaint of Aubrey and Egerton should 'be drawn up by sir R. Phillips, sir Edward Coke, and two other members, and the same be presented to the Lords, without prejudice or opinion, at a conference; and that a message be sent to the Lords for that purpose, on Monday next;' this being Saturday. Accordingly on Monday, March 19, a message was sent to the Lords, proposing a conference, which proposal was acceded to. The king at the same time sent a message to the house intimating, that he

'* This seems to be the case of cardinal Wolsey. See 3 Co. Inst. 148.—4 Co. Inst. 89.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

intended to adjourn them for a recess. This measure is supposed to have been devised by the king and Buckingham, by way of affording an opportunity and time to avert the disasters, which were threatening the lord chancellor. The recess did not, however, then take place. With respect to lord Bacon, the king's message was couched in cautious terms:

'The king also took notice of the complaints against the lord chancellor, for which he was sorry, for it hath always been his care to have placed the best; but no man can prevent such accidents; but his comfort was that the house was careful to preserve his honor. And his majesty thought not fit to have the affair hang long in suspense; therefore would not have any thing to hinder it. But for the furtherance thereof, he proposed a commission of six of the higher house and twelve of the lower house, to examine it upon oath. This proposition, if the house liked, he would send the like to the Lords, and this he thought might be done during this cessation, and though he hoped the chancellor was free, yet if he should be found guilty, he doubted not but you would do him justice.'

On the reading of this message, sir Edward Coke cautioned the house 'to take heed the commission do not hinder the manner of our parliamentary proceedings.' The house thanked the king for his gracious message, and with respect to the commission, desired him to propose it to the other house, with whom they were already connected in the affair. In the afternoon, the conference with the Lords was held, which on the following day was reported by the lord treasurer. Before proceeding to relate the steps adopted in the House of Lords, we would observe, that on Tuesday the twentieth, new complaints were made in the House of Commons, both directly to that body, and through the medium of their committee.—The House of Lords also requested the Commons to reduce their complaints to writing, which they refused to do. The Lords farther desired the attendance and evidence of two members of parliament, which the house permitted them to give on request, as private gentlemen. The next day, new complaints were reported, on the evidence of Keeling, (formerly in the service of the chancellor) and Churchill which led Mr Mewtys, a member, to observe:

'Touching the persons that inform, I would entreat this honorable house to consider, that Keeling is a common solicitor, (to say no more of him) Churchill a guilty register, by his own con-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

fession. I know, that fear of punishment and hopes of lessening it may make them say much, yea more than is true. For my own part I must say I have been a witness of my lord's proceedings. I know he hath sown the good seed of justice, and I hope that it will prove, that the envious man hath sown those tares.'

We now go back one day to the proceedings in the House of Lords. The lord treasurer, on the twentieth, reported the result of the conference to the Lords, and closed as follows:

'They [the Commons] humbly desire, that forasmuch as this concerneth a person of so great eminency, it may not depend long before your lordships, that the examination of the proofs may be expedited, and if he be found guilty, then to be punished; *if not guilty, the accusers now to be punished.*'

This report being made to the Lords, the lord admiral (Buckingham) presented to the house the following letter from the lord chancellor:

'My very good lords,

'I humbly pray your lordships all to make a favorable and true construction of my absence. It is no feigning nor fainting, but sickness, both of my heart and of my back, though joined with that comfort of mind, which persuades me, that I am not far from heaven, whereof I feel the first fruits; and because, whether I live or die, I would be glad to preserve my honor and fame as far as I am worthy, hearing that some complaints of base bribery are coming before your lordships, my requests unto your lordships are:

'*First*, that you will maintain me in your good opinion, without prejudice, until my cause be heard.

'*Secondly*, that in regard I have sequestered my mind at this time in great part from worldly things, thinking of my accompt and answer in a higher court, your lordships would give me convenient time, according to the course of other courts, to advise with my council, and to make my answer, wherein nevertheless my council's part will be the least, for I shall not by the grace of God trick up an innocency with cavillations, but plainly and ingenuously, as your lordships know my manner is, declare what I know or remember.

'*Thirdly*, that according to the course of justice, I may be allowed to except to the witnesses brought against me, and to move questions to your lordships for their cross-examination, and likewise to produce my own witnesses for the discovery of the truth.

'And *Lastly*, that if there come any more petitions of like nature, that your lordships would be pleased not to take any preju-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

dice or apprehension of any number or muster of them, especially against a judge that makes two thousand orders or decrees in a year, *not to speak of the courses that have been taken for hunting out complaints against me*, but that I may answer them according to the rules of justice severally and respectively. These requests I hope appear to your lordships no other than just; and so thinking myself happy to have so noble peers and reverend prelates to discern of my cause, and desiring no privilege of greatness for subterfuge of guiltiness, but meaning, as I said, to declare fairly and plainly with your lordships, and to put myself upon your honors and favors, I pray God to bless your councils and your persons; and rest your lordships' humblest servant,

'Fra. St Alban.'

This letter bore date, March nineteenth, the preceding day. Answer was immediately returned to it as follows:

'That the Lords received his lordship's letter, delivered to them by the lord admiral. They intend to proceed in his cause now before their lordships, according to the right rules of justice; and they shall be glad if his lordship shall clear his honor therein; to which end they pray his lordship to prepare for his just defence.'

The next day, a message was received by the Lords from the Commons, containing the additional complaints, to which we have already alluded. A committee of the Lords was appointed to continue the examination begun by the Lords in the house, and to report the charges against the lord chancellor with the proofs, which they did in twenty-eight articles. The list of these articles is given in the state trials, but as they stand without proofs, we forbear to transcribe them. Five of them we have already given, with lord Bacon's replies, from a document, which we shall presently notice.

Here the proceedings of parliament rested, for more than a month, till the twenty-fourth of April, during which time the houses had a recess, which the king and Buckingham are, perhaps erroneously, thought to have devised, for the sake of gaining time. It was in this interval that the course adopted by Bacon was fixed upon. The few documents we have do not allow us to say certainly with what advice or under what compulsion. By his letter to the Lords we find him preparing himself for the defence of his conduct and the cross-examination of witnesses. When he next appears before them, we shall see, that it is with a plenary confession. We shall first

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

give an account of all that is known of his proceedings in the interval.

We left the proceedings in the House of Lords at the twenty-first of March, being Wednesday. On Sunday following, the twenty-fifth, we find the following letter to the duke of Buckingham:*

'My very good lord, yesterday I know was no day; now I hope I shall hear from your lordship, who are my stay in these floods. Meanwhile, to ease my heart I have written to his majesty the enclosed; which I pray your lordship to read advisedly, and to deliver it or not to deliver it, as you think good. God ever prosper your lordship. Yours, ever, Fr. St Alban, *Canc.*'

We are induced to abridge our own observations for the sake of extracting as largely as possible from the interesting letters of lord Bacon in the agonies of this crisis. We first present our readers with a part of that to the king, enclosed in the foregoing to Buckingham.

'It may please your most excellent majesty,

'Time hath been when I have brought unto you *gemitum columbæ* from others; now I bring it from myself. I fly unto your majesty with the wings of a dove, which once within these seven days I thought would have carried me a higher flight. When I enter into myself, I find not the materials of such a tempest as hath come upon me; I have been as your majesty knoweth best) never author of any immoderate counsel, but always desired to have things carried *suavibus modis*. I have been no avaricious oppressor of the people. I have been no haughty nor intolerable nor hateful man, in my conversation or carriage. I have inherited no hatred from my father; but am a good patriot born. Whence should this be? For these are the things that use to raise dislikes abroad.

'For the House of Commons I began my credit there, and now it must be the place of the sepulture thereof; and yet this parliament, upon the message touching religion, the old love revived, and they said I was the same man still, only honesty was turned into honor.

'For the upper house even within these days before these troubles, they seemed as to take me into their arms, finding in me ingenuity, which they took to be the true straight line of nobleness, without any crooks or angles.

'And for the briberies and gifts wherewith I am charged, when the books of hearts shall be opened, I hope I shall not be found

* Bacon's Works, iv. 713.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

to have the troubled fountain of a corrupt heart, in a depraved habit of taking rewards to pervert justice, howsoever I may be frail, and partake of the abuses of the times.'

On the next day the king repaired to the House of Lords, and, in the words of the author before us,

'in expressions of studied popularity owned the errors of his government, exclaimed against the patents complained of, frankly gave up to justice the lesser criminals concerned in them; and all for the sake of his favorite, whom in the end he endeavored to screen by the poorest reasons imaginable. Indeed no good reasons could be alleged in defence of him, who was the greatest criminal, and without whose concurrence, the wretches in question could not have been guilty.'

Before the meeting of parliament after the recess, lord Bacon had an audience of the king, as we learn by a letter of thanks to his majesty, in which this audience is alluded to. This letter bears date April, the twentieth. But this is evidently an error. It should be perhaps the second. There is a remarkable passage in this letter to the king to this effect:

'It is not possible, nor it were not safe, for me to answer particulars, till I have my charge, which, when I shall receive, I shall, without fig-leaves or disguise, excuse what I can excuse, extenuate what I can extenuate, and ingenuously confess what I can neither clear nor extenuate.'

We may collect perhaps from this passage, that the king had cautioned the chancellor against engaging rashly in his defence; as we learn also, that up to this date, lord Bacon cherished the only purpose consistent with his honor—that of meeting his accusers, and engaging in his defence. At what time he was unfortunately induced to relinquish this design, we are not informed. That he did so, in consequence of the mingled threats and promises of the king and Buckingham, is nearly certain; threats that they would desert him, should he persist in his defence; promises that they would support him and retrieve his fortunes, if he would make confession to the Lords, and avoid the scandal and disclosures of a trial. Mr Mallet, whose style is by no means that of a panegyrist, thus states this matter. After having related the censures passed in parliament on the patents granted to Michel and Mompesson, he adds:

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

'But the commons did not stop here. They were for carrying their search up to the prime cause of all grievances, in order to discover by whose influence the patents had been procured, and how they had passed the seals. Complaints were brought into the house about the same time of corrupt practices even in the high court of equity. This alarmed the king for his chancellor, and still more for his minion, as private intimations had been sent to Buckingham of a severe scrutiny that was making into all his management, and of frequent meetings that were held with great secresy, by certain members of the lower house, in order to fix on him the guilt of whatever was most unjustifiable and oppressive. Buckingham's creatures, anxious and alarmed at this intelligence, persuaded him that he could secure impunity to himself and them, only by bringing his master forthwith to dissolve the parliament; and James had certainly been frightened into that rash and hazardous step, but for the sober remonstrances of Williams, dean of Westminster. That politic courtier advised him to cancel at once, by proclamation, all monopolies and vexatious grants; to sacrifice inferior criminals to the public resentment; and to soothe the parliament with the assurance that this reformation was first proposed by his favorite, on finding how much he had been abused by designing and knavish projectors. This counsel the king resolved to follow. But it did not wholly free him from the perplexity he was under. The chancellor, whom his interest led him to preserve, was openly accused of corruption. The favorite, whom his tenderness would not resign, was secretly and therefore more dangerously attacked, as the encourager if not the author of whatever was deemed most illegal and oppressive. To save both at this juncture would be impossible; and he found he must either part with the object of his inclinations, or the oracle of his counsels. How such a prince would determine is easy to guess. His passion prevailed over his reason, and my lord St Alban was made the scape goat of Buckingham. He was even obliged to abandon his defence. As he had gained universal esteem by his learning, and as his eloquence was equal to his parts, superior and commanding, the king would not hazard his appearing before the lords to plead his own cause. In the course of such an enquiry, he might have diverted the public odium from himself, by laying open the long series of bad administration to which he had been privy; the many illegal patents he had been compelled to pass; and all this came full home to Buckingham, the great object of national vengeance. The faults too imputed to himself, he might have extenuated, so far as to procure a great mitigation of the censure which must otherwise fall upon him in its utmost rigor. All this he foresaw and felt; but the king absolutely commanded him

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

not to be present at his trial; promising on his royal word to screen him in the last determination; or if that could not be, to reward him afterwards with ample retribution of protection and favor. He obeyed, and was undone.'

As this is a matter of great moment in the character of the chancellor, it is important to ask on what authority it is asserted. This is, upon the whole, less indubitable than could be wished, though perhaps as clear as could be expected in a case by its nature secret and confidential. Lord Bacon himself, in some of his letters, intimates that he fell a sacrifice, though not with sufficient distinctness of itself to justify the broad statement we have quoted at length from Mallet. His solemn request to the lords to be heard in his defence, and his repeated assurances to the king, with regard to the manner of making it, are much more conclusive that some influence was exerted over him to persuade him suddenly to the opposite course. In addition to these presumptions is the positive testimony of Bushel, a person in the service of lord Bacon at the time, and who ruined himself, by engaging in the working of some mines, upon pretence of following what he called lord Bacon's philosophical theory. In a work called Mineral Prosecutions, in the appendix, in a piece called the Abridgment of Bacon's Philosphical Theory, Bushel states as follows:

'Before this could be accomplished to his own content, there arose such complaints against his lordship, and the then favorite at court, that for some days put the king to this quere, whether he should permit the favorite of his affection, or the oracle of his council, to sink in his service. Whereupon his lordship was sent for by the king, who after some discourse gave him this positive advice, to submit himself to the house of peers, and that (upon his princely word) he would then restore him again, if they (in their honors) should not be sensible of his merits. Now, though my lord saw his approaching ruin, and told his majesty there was little hope of mercy in a multitude when his enemies were to give fire, if he did not plead for himself, yet such was his obedience to him from whom he had his living, that he resolved his majesty's will should be his only law, and so took leave of him with these words: "Those that will strike at your chancellor, it is much to be feared, will strike at your crown, and wished, as he was then the first, so he might be the last of sacrifices."

Such is the account of Bushel. When we consider the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

circumstances of the case, the known temper of the commons, the unaccountable change in lord Bacon's determination, with respect to his defence; the hints in his own letters; the relation in which Bushel stood to lord Bacon at the time, and the air of minute accuracy which marks this account descending to the words uttered by the chancellor, we are strongly inclined to believe that this account is the true one. We think, moreover, that it is probable from the passage in lord Bacon's letter to the king, misdated April 20, that it was not till after the charge had been exhibited at length to the chancellor, by the committee of the lords, in the recess of the house, that the chancellor received orders not to stand on his defence. It is probable that Buckingham waited to see what the charge should contain, before he advised conclusively to the steps to be pu sued, as it would be obviously impossible to tell how dangerous the trial was likely to be to himself, till he had seen the specifications against the chancellor.

As soon as these charges were exhibited, by the committee of the lords, to the chancellor, it would appear that he received orders to resign his defence. These orders seem to us alluded to, in the following letter to the king, dated April 21, after the lord chancellor had received his charge, but before the assembly of the house.

'Your majesty can bear me witness, that at my last so comfortable access, I did not so much as move your majesty (by your absolute power of pardon or otherwise) to take my cause into your hands, and to interpose between the sentence of the house. But now, if not per *omnipotentiam* (as the divines speak) but *per potestatem suaviter disponentem*, your majesty will graciously save me from a sentence, with the good liking of the house, and that cup may pass from me, it is the utmost of my desires.'

Without particular attention to the train of circumstances, the reader will be in danger here of mistaking the prayer of the chancellor, and conceive him to be urging the king to do, what we have maintained was compulsorily forced on Bacon. It was the chancellor's wish, when he found he was not to be permitted to defend himself, to have the king interpose, and prevent the lords from coming to a sentence. It was the king's design, on the other hand, that the chancellor should make confession, be sentenced, and pardoned.

This was the course accordingly pursued. Parliament met

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

after the recess, on the twenty-fourth of April, and their committee reported a charge, with twenty-eight specifications, against the chancellor, the same which had been already communicated to him. As soon as the charges were read, the king's son, afterwards Charles I. arose and presented a letter from the chancellor, and its being communicated by the prince is confirmation of the opinion, that this course was pursued by command of the king. We have not been willing to omit any part of this letter, which for its beauty and pathos deserves to be read by all who would make themselves acquainted with the stores of eloquence contained in our language.

'May it please your lordships: I shall humbly crave at your lordships' hands a benign interpretation of that which I shall now write; for words that come from wasted spirits and an oppressed mind are more safe in being deposited in a noble construction, than in being circled with any reserved caution.

This being moved, and as I hope obtained in the nature of a protection for all I shall say, I shall now make into the rest of that wherewith I shall at this time trouble your lordships a very strange entrance: for in the midst of a state of as great affliction as I think a mortal man can endure, honor being above life, I shall begin with the professing of gladness in some things.

'The first is, that hereafter the greatness of a judge or magistrate shall be no sanctuary or protection of guiltiness, which, in a few words, is the beginning of a golden world.

'The next is, that after this example, it is like that judges will fly from any thing that is in the likeness of corruption, though it were at a great distance, as from a serpent; which tendeth to the purging of the courts of justice, and reducing them to their true honor and splendor. And in these two points, God is my witness, that, though it be my fortune to be the anvil whereupon these good effects are beaten and wrought, I take no small comfort.

'But to pass from the motions of my heart, whereof God is only judge, to the merits of my cause, whereof your lordships are judges under God, and his lieutenant; I do understand there hath heretofore been expected of me some justification, and therefore I have chosen one only justification, instead of all other, one of the justifications of Job: for after the clear submission and confession which I shall now make your lordships, I hope I may say, and justify, with Job, I have not hid my sin as did Adam, nor concealed my faults in my bosom. This is the only justification which I will use; it resteth therefore, that without disguise I do ingenuously confess and acknowledge, that having under-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

stood the particulars of the charge, not formally from the house, but enough to inform my conscience and memory, I find matter sufficient and full both to move me to desert the defence, and to move your lordships to condemn and censure me. Neither will I trouble your lordships by singling those particulars which I think may be easiest answered. *Quid te exempta juvat spinis de pluribus una?* Neither will I prompt your lordships to observe upon the proofs where they come not home, or the scruples touching the credit of the witnesses; neither will I represent to your lordships how far a defence might in divers things extenuate the offence in respect of the time or manner of the gift, or the like circumstances; but only leave those things to spring out of your own noble thoughts and observations of the evidence and examinations themselves, and charitably to wind about the particulars of the charge here and there, as God shall put you in mind, and to submit myself wholly to your pity and grace.

'And now that I have spoken to your lordships as judges, I shall say a few words to you as peers and prelates, humbly commending my cause to your noble minds and magnanimous affections.

'Your lordships are no simple judges, but parliamentary judges. You have a farther extent of arbitrary power than other judges; and if your lordships be not tied by the ordinary course of courts or precedents in points of strictness and severity, much less are you in points of mercy and mitigation. And yet if any thing, which I shall move, might be contrary to your honorable and worthy end to introduce a reformation, I should not seek it; but herein I beseech you give me leave to tell your lordships a story. Titus Manlius took his son's life for giving battle against the prohibition of his general. Not many years after, the like severity was pursued by Papirius Cursor, the dictator, against Quintus Maximus, who, being upon the point to be sentenced, by the intercession of some principal persons of the senate, was spared. Whereupon Livy makes this grave and gracious observation: *Neque minus firmata est disciplina militaris periculo Quinti Maximi, quam miserabili supplicio Titi Manlii*, the discipline of war was no less established by the questioning of Quintus Maximus, than by the punishing of Titus Manlius. And the same reason is of the reformation of justice; for the questioning men of eminent place hath the same terror, though not the same rigor, with the punishment.

'But my case stayeth not there; for my humble desire is, that his majesty would take the seal into his hands, which is a great downfall, and may serve, I hope, in itself, for an expiation of my errors.

'Therefore, if mercy and mitigation be in your powers, and do

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

no way cross your noble ends, why should I not hope of your lordships favors and commiseration? Your lordships will be pleased to behold you chief pattern, the king, our sovereign, of most incomparable clemency, and whose heart is inscrutable for wisdom and goodness. Your lordships will remember, that there sat not, these two hundred years before, a prince in your house, and never such a prince, whose presence deserves to be made memorable by records and acts mixt of mercy and justice. Yourselves, either nobles (and compassion ever beats in the veins of noble blood) or reverend prelates, who are the servants of him that would not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flax. You all sit upon a high stage, and therefore cannot but be more sensible of the changes of the world, and of the fall of any of high place.

'Neither will your lordships forget, that there are *vitia temporis* as well as *vitia hominis;* and that the beginning of reformations hath the contrary powers of the pool of Bethesda, for that had strength to cure only him that is first cast in; and for my part I wish it may stay there and go no further.

'Lastly, I assure myself your lordships have a noble feeling of me as a member of your own body; and one thing there was, that, in this very session, had some taste of your loving affections, which I hope was not a lightning before death, but rather a spark of that grace, which now in conclusion will more appear.

'And, therefore, my humble suit unto your lordships is, that my penitent submission may be my sentence; and the loss of the seal my punishment, and that your lordships will spare my farther sentence; but recommend me to his majesty's grace and pardon for all that is passed. God's Holy Spirit be among you. Your lordships' humble servant and supplicant,

Fran. St Albans, *Canc.*'

Notwithstanding the submissive tone of this address, and the powerful patronage, under which it was presented, the lords were not satisfied. They directed a copy of the charge without the proofs to be sent to the chancellor, with this message:

'That the lord chancellor's confession is not fully set down by his lordship in the said submission, for three causes.

'1st. His lordship confesseth not any particular bribe or corruption.

'2d. *Nor sheweth how his lordship heard the charge thereof.*

'3d The confession, such as it is, is afterwards extenuated in the same submission. And therefore the lords have sent him a particular of the charge, and do expect his answer to the same with all convenient expedition.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

The lord chancellor sent back for a reply to this message, 'that he would return an answer with all convenient speed.'

It would appear from the second of the exceptions stated by the lords, that they were dissatisfied with the communication of the articles, which had been made to the lord chancellor during the recess. At any rate, on the following day, we perceive in their doings, symptoms of growing impatience, as they sent him word again, by Mr Baron Denham, and the attorney general, that 'the lords having received a doubtful answer unto the message their lordships sent him yesterday; therefore they now send to him again to know of his lordship directly and presently, whether his lordship will make his confession or stand on his defence.' To this peremptory message the lord chancellor replied by the same messengers, 'that he will make no manner of defence to the charge, but meaneth to acknowledge corruption, and to make a particular confession to every point; and after that, an humble submission; but humbly craves liberty, that where the charge is more full than he finds the truth of the fact, he may make declaration of the truth in such particulars, the charge being brief and containing not all circumstances.' The same messengers were sent back to the lord chancellor by the lords, to let him know, 'that their lordships have granted him until Monday the thirtieth of April, by ten in the morning, to send such confession and submission as his lordship intends to make.'

Accordingly, on the twenty-fifth of April, the unfortunate chancellor sent in a paper to the Lords, which is given at length in the state trials, making particular confession of each of the twenty-eight articles, but extenuating most of them, by way either of showing, that the value of the alleged bribes was overrated, or that no cause was pending, or that they had been received by his servants without his knowledge, or that they were *bonâ fide* loans on ordinary security. The length of the document forbids our transcribing it, and the five articles we have copied from it above will enable our readers to judge of its manner. Having gone through with his replies to the specifications, the chancellor thus closes the confession:

'This declaration I have made to your lordships with a sincere mind, humbly craving, that if there be any mistake your lordships would impute it to want of memory, and not to any desire of mine to obscure truth or palliate any thing; for I do now

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

again confess, that in the points charged upon me, though they should be taken as myself have declared them, there is a great deal of corruption and neglect, for which I am heartily sorry, and submit myself to the judgment, grace, and mercy of the court.

'For extenuation, I will use none concerning the matters themselves; only it may please your lordships out of your nobleness to cast your eyes of compassion upon my person and estate. I was never noted for an avaricious man, and the Apostle saith "covetousness is the root of all evil." I hope also that your lordships do the rather find me in a state of grace, for that in all these particulars there are few or none, that are not almost two years old; whereas those that have a habit of corruption do commonly wax worse. So that it hath pleased God to prepare me by precedent degrees of amendment to my present penitency; and for my estate it is so mean and poor, as my care is now chiefly to satisfy my debts.

'And so fearing I have troubled your lordships too long, I shall conclude with an humble suit unto you, that if your lordships proceed to sentence, your sentence may not be heavy to my ruin, but gracious, and mixed with mercy; and not only so, but that you would be noble intercessors for me to his majesty likewise for his grace and favor. Your lordships' most humble servant and supplicant, Franc. St Albans, *Canc.*'

The Lords, having heard this confession, sent a numerous deputation of peers and bishops, who shewed to the chancellor the said confession, told him, that 'the Lords do conceive it to be an ingenuous and full confession; and demanded of him, whether it be his own hand subscribed to the same, and whether he will stand to it or not.' The lord chancellor replied, '*My lords, it is my act, my hand, my heart; I beseech your lordships to be merciful to a broken reed.*'

This answer being returned to the house, the Lords sent a deputation to the king, at the head of which was the prince, requesting him to sequester the seal, with which request the king immediately complied. On the first of May, (the day following these events,) as appears by a very particular account of the whole transaction drawn up by the king's order and enrolled in chancery, 'his lordship delivered up the great seal with the greatest decency, as well as with the highest signs of gratitude to the king for the many favors conferred upon him, and of the utmost sorrow for his own abuses of those acts of his sovereign favor.'* According to the account of Bushel, he

* This document is contained in Rymer's Fœdera, xvii. 296. See Biographia Britannica, i. 405.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

was sent by the chancellor to lord Windsor, to know the effect of his submission on the house. From him he learned, that the only act of grace he could expect was procured him by the interposition of the bishops, viz. that he should retain his titles of honor; upon hearing which the lord chancellor remarked, 'that he was only bound to thank his clergy.'—The seals being sequestered on the first of May, and put in commission the second, the Lords resolved, that on the day following they would proceed to give sentence. The gentleman usher and sergeant at arms were commanded to wait upon the lord chancellor, and the sergeant at arms to take his mace with him and shew it to the chancellor, and so to summon him to appear in the House of Lords to receive sentence the next morning at nine o'clock. These officers found him sick in bed, and having summoned him, he answered, 'that he was sick, that he feigned not this for any excuse, for if he had been well he would willingly have come.' The Lords determined nevertheless to proceed, and sent a message to the Commons, that they were ready to give sentence, whenever the Commons, by their speaker, should come and demand it. The Commons immediately waited on the Lords, and the speaker from the bar moved the Lords for judgment, which was rendered by the lord chief justice, as follows:

'Mr Speaker: Upon complaint of the Commons against the viscount St Albans, lord chancellor, this high court hath thereby, and by his own confession, found him guilty of the crimes and corruptions complained of by the Commons, and of sundry other crimes and corruptions of like nature.

'And therefore this high court having first summoned him to attend, and having his excuse of not attending, by reason of infirmity and sickness, which he protested was not feigned, or else he would most willingly have attended, doth nevertheless think fit to proceed to judgment, and therefore this high court doth adjudge:

'That the lord viscount St Albans, lord chancellor of England, shall undergo the fine and ransom of forty thousand pounds.

'That he shall be imprisoned in the tower during the king's pleasure.

'That he shall forever be incapable of any office, place, or employment in the state or commonwealth.

'That he shall never sit in parliament, nor come within the verge of the court.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

It has been supposed, that the Lords were moved to this tremendous severity, by the belief, that the sentence would be mitigated by the king; and that in reality the punishment would be made as completely nominal, as it was in the power of the king to render it. This actually took place; after a short confinement in the tower, he was discharged from imprisonment. In a letter to the prince, dated June first, we find him expressing his thanks to the prince for the use of sir John Vaughan's house at Parson's Green. 'I am much beholden,' says he, 'to your highnesses worthy servant sir John Vaughan, the sweet air and loving usage of whose house hath already much revived my languishing spirits. I beseech your highness thank him for me.' Three days after, we find the following letter to the king, which does great credit to the feelings of James, and shows that he was sincerely attached to lord Bacon:

'I humbly thank your majesty for my liberty, without which timely grant any other grace would have come too late. But your majesty, that did shed tears at the beginning of my trouble, will, I hope, shed the dew of your grace upon me in the end. Let me live to serve you, else life is but the shadow of death to your majesty's devoted servant.'

Soon after this, he was permitted to have access to his majesty, and being still restrained by his sentence from coming within the verge of the court, this part of it was for the present not abrogated but suspended. We find from a letter of sir Antony Ashley to Buckingham, the second letter in the Cabala, that great offence was taken by the enemies of Buckingham at the promptness with which Bacon was released from the tower. As this letter is dated May twelfth, and Bacon was sentenced the third, it would appear that he was confined but a few days. The king had so long been used to resorting for advice to Bacon, that we find him calling for his counsel as to public affairs, even in this moment of his ruin; and a memorial exists of Bacon, written a week or two after his release from the tower, at the request of the king, touching the best mode of procedure with the reforms, of which his own ruin was the solemn inauguration. The king being deterred by the clamors of the hostile party from allowing him immediate release from the still existing restraints on his liberty, lord Bacon retired in June to his seat at Gorhambury. On the thirteenth of September, the king granted him a license to remain six weeks at sir John

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Vaughan's house. On the twentieth of September, the king signed a warrant for assigning to his friends the fine of forty thousand pounds by way of protecting him to that amount from his creditors, and, October twelve, signed his pardon, except in respect to the last article of his sentence. Being therefore still unable to appear within the verge of court, he was obliged, when his license expired, to return to Gorhambury. In a letter to the king, dated March 1622, we find him expressing his thanks to James for his release from the prohibition to appear within the court, which we may suppose accordingly to have been granted about this time. A letter is also extant to the king, apparently written in September of the same year, and in the most touching strain, from which we must find room for a few sentences.

'For now it is thus with me; I am a year and a half old in misery; though I must ever acknowledge not without some mixture of your majesty's grace and mercy; for I do not think it possible that any one whom you once loved, should be totally miserable. Mine own means, through mine own improvidence, are poor and weak, little better than my father left me. The poor things that I have had from your majesty are either in question, or at courtesy. My dignities remain marks of your past favor, but burdens of my present fortune. The poor remnants which I had of my former fortunes, in plate or jewels, I have spread upon poor men unto whom I owed, scarce leaving myself a convenient subsistence. So as to conclude, I must pour out my misery before your majesty, so far as to say, *si deseris tu, perimus.*—

Your majesty shall not feel that in gift, which I shall extremely feel in help, for my desires are moderate, and my courses measured to a life orderly and reserved, hoping still to do your majesty honor. Only I most humbly beseech your majesty to give me leave to conclude with these words, which necessity speaketh: Help me, dear sovereign, lord and master, and pity me so far, as that I, that have borne a bag, be not now in my age forced in effect to bear a wallet; nor that I, who desire to live to study, may not be driven to study to live.'

In consequence of this and other letters, some pecuniary favors were bestowed upon lord Bacon, though the great amount of his debts rendered his situation anxious and unhappy. That his poverty, however, has been exaggerated, we can scarcely doubt, particularly in the following atrocious account, at the close of his case in the state trials. 'His height

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

of abundance was reduced to so low an ebb, as to be denied beer to quench his thirst; for having a sickly stomach, and not liking the beer at Grays-Inn, he sent now and then to sir Fulk Grevil lord Brook, who lived in the neighborhood, for a bottle of his beer; and after some grumbling, the butler had order to deny him.' As Bacon retained pensions or grants to the amount of eighteen hundred pounds a year, and had a landed estate of a third as much, it is incredible that he should have been reduced to this abject poverty. Equally dubious do we regard the opposite tale, that he retained, after his fall, all the splendor which he had assumed in the height of his honors, and provoked the prince, who had passed him, driven in his carriage with great state and attendance, to say, 'Well, do what we can, this man scorns to go out like a snuff.' No part of his life, on the whole, does him more credit than that which he passed after his fall. He devoted himself unremittedly to his philosophical and literary pursuits. The very next year he published his history of Henry VII.

'Under the discouragement,' says Mallet, 'of a public censure, broken in his health, broken in his fortunes, he enjoyed his retirement not above five years; a little portion of time; and yet he found means to crowd into it what might have been the whole business, and the glory too, of a long and fortunate life.'

One anecdote from this period does him so much credit, in a point of view in which his reputation has suffered most—strength of mind—that we cannot but quote it.

'One day his lordship was dictating to Dr Rawley some of his experiments in his Sylva. The same day, he had sent a friend to court, to receive for him a final answer, touching the effect of a grant which had been made him by king James. He had hitherto only hope of it, and hope deferred, and he was desirous to know the event of the matter, and to be freed, one way or other, from the suspense of his thoughts. His friend returning, told him plainly, that henceforth he must despair of that grant, how much soever his fortunes needed it. *Be it so*, said his lordship, and then he dismissed his friend very cheerfully, with thankful acknowledgments for his services. His friend being gone, he came straightway to Dr Rawley, and said thus to him, *Well, sir, yon business wont go on, let us go on with this in our power*, and then he dictated to him afresh for some hours, without the least hesitancy of speech or discernible interruption of thought.*

* Quoted from Abp Tennison's account of his writings, in Biographia Britan.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

He received a full pardon from James about three years after his fall, and, in consequence of the death of the king, was summoned to the first parliament under Charles I. He himself, however, died soon after. He seems to have spoken in the spirit of prophecy, in telling the king that those who struck at his chancellor would take a higher aim. His impeachment may be regarded as one of the first indications of that spirit, which cost Charles his life. The same volume of the state trials contains both their cases.

The remarks which we have to make on the character of lord Bacon must be confined to a few heads, rather than carried out into a formal argument, as the interest of the subject might deserve, if our limits permitted it. In order not to be misapprehended in the conclusions we would draw, we would say, without hesitation, that lord Bacon stands convicted, though not in the most unexceptionable form, of practices inconsistent with the purity of a court of justice, and that an exemplary punishment was therefore merited by him. Having admitted this, we venture to suggest some considerations in extenuation of his offence, and by way of rectifying the extravagant ideas, which prevail of his guilt, principally, we believe, on no better foundation than that of Pope's line.—In the first place, then, we derive our knowledge of lord Bacon's guilt from *ex parte* evidence, and that in the most exceptionable form. He was himself never confronted with the witnesses, had no opportunity of cross-examining them, no opportunity of calling his own. In addition to this, we possess, for the most part, only general results of their testimony, on many of the charges without any of the testimony itself. What court would think it just or safe to condemn a prisoner under these circumstances? It may be replied, indeed, that lord Bacon was condemned by his peers, and that on his own confession. But we have made it more than probable, we have produced one express authority to prove, that this confession was compulsory; that lord Bacon was brought to it by the mingled threats of the king and his all powerful favorite; and this fact alone deprives lord Bacon's confession of any legal weight. If the confession itself be scanned, it will be found, that every article is palliated, extenuated, excused, or shown in some degree to be different from the allegation; and it is quite plain, that lord Bacon could have gone much farther in this way, but for the miserable dilemma, in which he was placed.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Secondly, his impeachment originated in private malice. Wrenham, a disappointed suitor at chancery, had some years before petitioned against lord Bacon, and sought to do him ill offices with the king. The affair was thoroughly sifted, and it was found not only, that lord Bacon had behaved with integrity and done no other and no more than his duty, but that he had been very ill-treated by Wrenham. This man's private malice could not digest the loss of his suit, and again the disappointment of his vengeance, and he was the instrument of forwarding, collecting, and pursuing the complaints against the lord chancellor, which ended in his impeachment. We hold, that in any moral inference to be drawn against the character of lord Bacon, in consequence of his trial, it is a matter of great moment, whether he was called to it in the ordinary march of vigilant, but even justice, or whether it was stirred up and forwarded by private malice.

Thirdly, the prosecution was strongly associated with the political odium, in which Buckingham was held. It is true, that lord Bacon personally had been a favorite in either house. It is equally true, however, that the Commons—not sufficiently conscious yet of their power to aim at a higher mark—fixed upon the lord chancellor with a promptness of justice, which had evidently been whetted up, for another victim. The letter of sir A. Ashley, to which we have alluded above, abundantly testifies to this feeling on the part of the Commons, and the whole plot—as we may call it—of lord Bacon's forced confession, was predicated on the necessity of turning off the vengeance of the Commons from Buckingham to the chancellor. This fact is equally important, nay far more so, than the former; for if that prove, that lord Bacon was dragged to trial by a malicious informer, this shows, that his trial was prosecuted before prejudiced judges.

Fourthly, the crime itself, of which lord Bacon was guilty, must not be estimated by a standard inapplicable to the age, in which he lived. It is well known, that the chancellors who preceded him were in the habit of taking presents from suitors; a habit of most dangerous example, and deserving to be broken up, even at as great a sacrifice as that of lord Bacon. Nevertheless, when we speak, not of the justice of his punishment, but of the moral character of his conduct, the circumstance, that preceding chancellors had taken presents, is of material

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

importance, in ascertaining what degree of guilt was incurred by lord Bacon in doing it. Here, too, the manners of the age are to be considered; the taking of presents was a very extensive practice. On new year's day, the sovereign was presented by all the wealthy subjects about his court. Quite as many abstract arguments could be framed on the impropriety of a king's taking gifts of his subjects, as of a lord chancellor's of his suitors. In an age when it is not practised, the crime is monstrous; when it is, it loses its criminality.

Our readers may see the extent of these practices in an extract from the 'Reign of Elizabeth,' by Miss Aikin, an authority the less suspicious here, as that lady has exercised her gifts, which are but small, with great diligence against lord Bacon.

'The ministers of a *sovereign*, who scrupled not to accept of bribes from parties engaged in law suits, *for the exertion of her own interest with the judges*, could scarcely be expected to exhibit much delicacy on this head. In fact, the venality of the court of Elizabeth was so great, that no public character appears even to have professed a disdain of the influence of gifts and bribes; and we find lord Burleigh inserting the following among rules moral and prudential, drawn up for the use of his son Robert, when young:—"Be sure to keep some great man thy friend. But trouble him not for trifles. Compliment him often. Present him with many, yet small gifts, and of little charge. And if thou have cause to bestow any great gratuity, let it be some such thing as may be daily in his sight."'

In connexion with this, Miss Aikin quotes the following letter of Hutton, archbishop of York, to the lord treasurer Burleigh:

'I am bold at this time to inform your lordship, what ill success I had in a suit for a pardon for Miles Dawson, seminary priest, whom I converted wholly the last summer from popery. Upon his coming to church, receiving the holy communion, and taking the oath of supremacy, I and the council here, about Michaelmas last, joined in petition to her majesty for her gracious pardon, and commended the matter to one of the masters of requests, and writ also to Mr Secretary to further it, if need were, which he willingly promised to do. In Michaelmas term nothing was done. And therefore in Hilary term, I being put in mind, that all was not done in that court for God's sake only, sent up twenty French crowns of mine own purse, as a remembrancer of the poor man's pardon, which was thankfully accepted of.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

This argument derives new force, when we consider, in the next place, that though lord Bacon were punished for bribery and *corruption*, he was most certainly innocent of the latter, so far as it is understood of unrighteous judgments. Out of the two thousand orders and decrees published by lord Bacon annually, Rushworth assures us, on the authority of some learned in the law, that no decree of lord Bacon was ever reversed; and one of the profession also said of him, 'that if he sold justice, he sold not injustice.' In fact, there is no crime chargeable to lord Bacon's account beyond those, which the conventions of society create. The moral duty of the judge is absolved, if he render equal justice to all; and lord Bacon is not charged with not doing so.

Finally, that we may not omit any portion of the truth, out of supposed tenderness to his fame, the true source of his extravagant taking of presents was his bad husbandry, he being without a large fortune, of expensive habits, no thrift, and given up to his servants. The twenty-eighth article against him in the charge was, 'that he hath given way to great exactions by his servants, both in respect of private seals, and otherwise for sealing injunctions;' and to this he replied with equal candor and justice, 'I confess it was a great fault of neglect in me, that I looked no better to my servants.' It is in allusion to this, that, when his servants rose up at his entrance, he said, 'sit down, my masters; your rise hath been my fall.' It is probable, that abuses were practised to a great extent in his house, and under cover of his authority, of which he knew nothing, but of which the odium was thrown upon him. And justly in a legal point of view, for it was his duty to protect his suitors from the rapacity of his servants; justly in a moral point of view, for a man certainly shall bear the blame of the wrong, that comes of his neglect; but charitably speaking, it is surely less to be weakly negligent as a master, than wilfully corrupt as a chancellor.

We cannot persuade ourselves, that the foregoing reflections are wholly without weight. We confess we have made them, from having sought ourselves in vain, in the history of lord Bacon's fall, for the grounds of that abandonment, with which he is given up as the 'meanest of mankind.' Fatal as his great weakness was, there is neither truth nor justice in the appellation; it does not even tolerably well describe the gene-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ral kind of his moral defect. Comparing his character with that of men in much stricter times, we could fix on some of the proudest names in English story, to which deeper moral exceptions might be taken. We will not violate national courtesy, so far as to name the frail and illustrious living, but Pitt and Fox, if they fell into the hands of an epigrammatist, like Pope, would either of them serve to point a moral, as dark as the 'meanest of mankind.' When we consider, moreover, that in the same poem, in which Bacon is thus hung up to proverbial scorn, so long as the English literature shall endure, lord Bolingbroke is crowned with all the honors of a poetical apotheosis, we cannot but feel indignant at this perverse distribution of posthumous renown.

ART. XXI.—*The Life of James Otis, of Massachusetts; containing, also, notices of some contemporary characters and events from the year* 1760 *to* 1775. *By William Tudor.* Boston, 1823. 8vo, pp. 508.

To record the merits of those illustrious men, whose exertions have contributed to the freedom and happiness of our country is the most imperious and interesting duty of American scholars. Few of our readers need to be told how inadequately it has hitherto been performed. As a consolation, if not an excuse, for this lamentable deficiency, we can plead no less an example, than that of our transatlantic brethren; and while scarcely one of the statesmen and heroes, who have flourished in Great Britain during the last and the present century, has found a biographer worthy of his merits, while the lives of Chatham, and Wolfe, and Mansfield are recorded, if at all, only in works too contemptible to be mentioned, while Burke and Pitt have found no better heralds of their virtues, than Bissett, and Gifford, and Tomlins, we cannot feel very deeply mortified, if, under all our literary disadvantages, we have produced no first rate specimen of biography,* with the solitary, though striking exception, of the life of Fisher Ames.

To repair our fault in this respect, to do full justice to the memory of the founders of our republic, is, in many cases, out

* We would not be understood to apply these remarks to the memoirs of Franklin by himself, which break off before the commencement of the most active and important part of his life.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

of our power. The private history of several of them rests entirely on tradition. We know them in general as public benefactors, but all that distinguished them from each other is irrecoverably lost, the monument raised to their memory in the hearts of their countrymen bears no other inscription, than their names. When Johnson was writing the life of Dryden, upon applying to the only two of the poet's acquaintance then living, he could recover no other information on the subject, than two unimportant anecdotes. Not forty years have elapsed since the death of James Otis, and our author's researches for materials for the work before us have been pursued for a long period, and with exemplary diligence. The following candid statement of his incomplete success tends to shew, in a striking light, the evanescent nature of oral truth.

'The reader will be disappointed, if he expect to find in this volume more than mere fragments of the life of James Otis. After a diligent and widely extended search, but little comparatively has been recovered of his private life, or of his public services; yet before the year 1770, no American, Dr Franklin only excepted, was so much known, and so often named in the other colonies, and in England. His papers have all perished, none of his speeches were recorded, and he himself having been cut off before the revolution actually commenced, his name is connected with none of the public documents, that are familiar to the nation. It is owing to this combination of circumstances, that the most learned, the most eloquent, the most ardent, the most influential man of his time, is now so little known, that to many persons the following language of president Adams seemed exaggerated. "I have been young and now am old, and I solemnly say, I have never known a man, whose love of his country was more ardent or sincere, never one, who suffered so much, never one, whose services for any ten years of his life were so important and essential to the cause of his country, as those of Mr Otis from 1760 to 1770." Language equally strong was used by the late chief justice Dana, when speaking of him, in one of his charges to a grand jury; and similar opinions were held by all those who acted with him, and were witnesses to his talents and influence.' pp. xviii. xix.

Of the private character, therefore, of James Otis, of his habits of business and recreation, of his conversation and conduct in the domestic and social circle, this book contains but little. That little, however, is highly interesting and extremely well told, and its scantiness is the less to be regretted, as the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

life of Otis was so emphatically a public one, his time, his property, his talents, his heart, were so unreservedly given to his country, that the greater part of his history is inseparably blended with that of Massachusetts. This work is consequently valuable less as the biography of a distinguished individual, than as a sketch of the times in which he flourished, and of the band of patriots, of whom he was the chief, and exhibits him, not in a solitary portrait, but like Napoleon, on his brazen column, or Wellington in his silver shield, as the prominent figure in a variety of interesting scenes, the head of an illustrious group.

The choice of his subject is alike creditable to our author's feelings and judgment. To no portion of time can the citizens of this state revert, with a deeper interest or a higher pride, than to that which elapsed between the year 1760, and the evacuation of Boston. Those years may be called, without extravagance or partiality, the most trying and glorious recorded in our annals. We do not mean to say that the services or sufferings of Massachusetts closed with that period. To do justice to the zeal and patience, which she displayed throughout the whole of the revolution, is a task of no ordinary importance and difficulty, which little has yet been done to accomplish. 'My heart beats, I trust,' said Mr Webster in the late convention of this state, 'as responsive as any one's, to a soldier's claim for honor and renown. It has ever been my opinion, however, that while celebrating the military achievements of our countrymen in the revolutionary contest, we have not always done equal justice to the merits and the sufferings of those, who sustained on their property and on their means of subsistence, the great burden of the war. Any one, who has had occasion to be acquainted with the records of the New-England towns, knows well how to estimate those merits and those sufferings. Nobler records of patriotism exist no where. No where can there be found higher proofs of a spirit that was ready to hazard all, to pledge all, to sacrifice all, in the cause of their country. Instances were not unfrequent, in which small freeholders parted with their last hoof, and the last measure of corn in their granaries, to supply provision for their troops, and hire service for the ranks. The voice of Otis and of Adams, in Fanueil Hall, found its full and true echo in the little councils of the interior towns; and

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

if, within the continental congress, patriotism shone more conspicuously, it did not there exist more truly, nor burn more fervently; it did not render the day more anxious, nor the night more sleepless; it sent up no more ardent prayer to God for succour; and it put forth, in no greater degree, the fulness of its effort, and the energy of its whole soul and spirit, in the common cause, than it did in the small assemblies of the towns.'

It is still, however, the chief glory of Massachusetts, that the idea of resisting even to blood against a weak, but exasperated and obstinate British ministry, was first avowed (as we hope presently to prove) by one of her sons; that he was supported by his fellow citizens in this noble purpose, with an ardor equalled only by their invincible firmness; that for fifteen years the people of this state, as one man, while suffering the severest injuries and insults, and with the most desperate prospects, asserted and maintained the unalienable rights of the colonies, with all the courage, and what is far more wonderful, with all the prudence, which swayed the counsels of their illustrious leaders. Events like those to which we refer, could scarcely be divested of their interest, in the hands of the most unskilful annalist. Before making any comments on the manner in which they are generally treated by our author, we shall speak of a point in American history, which he has been the first to illustrate, with the method and the copiousness due to its importance. This point is no other than the origin of our independence. Where the revolution began can be, we think, no longer a question, in any well informed and unbiassed mind. It was in February 1761, that the fundamental rights of the American colonies were first openly and boldly proclaimed. The circumstances which led to this momentous declaration will appear in the following brief statement, taken in substance, and often in terms, from the pages of this work.

In 1760 an order in council arrived from Great Britain, directing the officers of the customs to carry into effect the acts of the trade, and to apply to the supreme judicature of Massachusetts for writs of assistance. Application was made accordingly, in November of the same year, to the supreme court, then sitting at Salem. Chief justice Sewall expressed great doubt of the legality of the writ, and of the authority of

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the court to grant it, and none of the other judges said a word in its favor; but as the application was on the part of the crown, it could not be dismissed without a hearing, which was fixed for the next term of the court, to be held in February 1761. In December, chief justice Sewall died, and the loss of this impartial, high-minded magistrate, at that critical period, adds our author, was justly esteemed a public misfortune. His place was filled by lieutenant governor Hutchinson, who thus united in his own person the offices of lieutenant governor, commander of the castle, judge of probate, and chief justice of the supreme court! The officers of the customs called upon Otis, as advocate general, to argue their cause.

'But as he believed these writs to be illegal and tyrannical, he refused. He would not prostitute his office to the support of an oppressive act; and with true delicacy and dignity, being unwilling to retain a station in which he might be expected or called upon to argue in support of such odious measures, he resigned it, though the situation was very lucrative, and if filled by an incumbent with a compliant spirit, led to the highest favors of government.

'The merchants of Salem and Boston applied to Mr. Pratt to undertake their cause, who was also solicited to engage on the other side; but he declined taking any part, being about to leave Boston for New-York, of which province he had been appointed chief justice. They also applied to Otis and Thacher, who engaged to make their defence, and probably both of them without fees, though very great ones were offered. The language of Otis was, "In such a cause I despise all fees." pp. 56, 57.

The court met in Boston accordingly, in February 1761, (the day is not stated,) and the trial took place in the council chamber, at the east end of the old town house. It was at that time and place that James Otis made his speech, on the writs of assistance. Of that speech, celebrated as it was, nothing was published at the time but a few interpolated fragments, and all else which it contained was supposed to have been forgotten. A full and satisfactory sketch of it, however, was lately made by president Adams, from notes taken at its delivery, and is now given to the public in the sixth chapter of this work. It is certainly far more than a compensation for 'the absence of contemporary records, and the subsequent neglect of this great leading transaction, that one of the hearers, after the lapse of sixty years, with all the authority which

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

venerable age and illustrious services can confer, should have called the attention of his countrymen to the subject; and by a rare and felicitous force of memory, carrying back their regards over the course of two generations, have exhibited with a magical effect, through the obscurity of time, an impressive and brilliant sketch of one of the first struggles that led to their national existence.'

The chapter which we have just mentioned contains, besides this extraordinary summary of Otis' remarks, several reflections of the illustrious reporter. We shall not venture to abridge, and our limits do not permit us to transcribe it. Suffice it to say, that Otis, in an argument of four or five hours, laid down the great principles of civil liberty, and especially the maxim that taxation without representation is tyranny, with a clearness and force, due to his subject and to the occasion. 'American independence,' says president Adams, 'was then and there born. The seeds of patriots and heroes, to defend the "*non sine diis animosus infans*," were then and there sown. Every man of an immense crowded audience appeared to me to go away, as I did, ready to take arms against writs of assistance. Then and there was the first scene in the first act of opposition to the arbitrary claims of Great Britain.' 'I do say,' adds president Adams in another place, 'in the most solemn manner, that Mr. Otis' oration against writs of assistance, breathed into this nation the breath of life.'

Having thus dwelt on this great and hitherto contested point, we proceed to a few remarks on our author's powers as a historian. In his accumulation and selection of incidents, he is no less judicious and happy, than in his choice of a subject. Many of them are drawn from manuscripts, and more particularly from the writings of president Adams, and are now, for the first time, given to the public. Where he has taken his materials, as every historian necessarily must, in some degree, from other works, he has seldom failed to place the facts which he has borrowed, in a more clear, lively, and entertaining point of view, than he found them. Nothing seems to be admitted, which does not rest upon the most unquestionable authority, and but little which is not highly valuable, either for its intrinsic moment, or for the light it incidentally throws on more important subjects.

The author's narrative of political events is interwoven with

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

many passages of a lighter and more amusing kind. To these, though they occur more frequently, than in the pages of other historians, it would be worse than stoical to object, upon any general principle. They not only serve to prevent the fatigue which might arise from perusing an unbroken narrative of momentous public transactions, but often afford, in a few words, more information respecting the private character of distinguished individuals, or the feelings, habits, and manners, of the people of this state, in the middle of the last century, than could well be learned from volumes of more stately history.

The following anecdote, for instance, is a curious illustration of the character and condition of that class of negro servants, which has furnished a model to the author of the Spy, for his most original and entertaining personage.

'If some previous remarks on doctors Cooper and Chauncy are recollected, they will render the following story more intelligible. Dr Cooper, who was a man of accomplished manners and fond of society, was able, by the aid of his fine talents, to dispense with some of the severe study that others engaged in. This, however, did not escape the envy and malice of the world, and it was said, in a kind of petulant and absurd exaggeration, that he used to walk to the south-end of a Saturday, and if he saw a man riding into town in a black coat, would stop, and ask him to preach the next day. Dr Chauncy was a close student, very absent and irritable. On these traits in the character of the two clergymen, a servant of Dr Chauncy's laid his scheme to obtain a particular object from his master. Scipio went into his master's study one morning to receive some directions, which the doctor having given, resumed his writing, but the servant still remained. The master, looking up a few minutes afterwards, and supposing he had just come in, said, "Scipio, what do you want?" "I want a new coat, massa." "Well, go to Mrs Chauncy, and tell her to give you one of my old coats;" and was again absorbed in studies. The servant remained fixed. After a while, the doctor, turning his eyes that way, saw him again, as if for the first time, and said, "What do you want, Scip?" "I want a new coat, massa." "Well, go to my wife, and ask her to give you one of my old coats," and fell to writing once more. Scipio remained in the same posture. After a few minutes, the doctor looked towards him, and repeated the former question, "Scipio, what do you want?" "I want a new coat, massa." It now flashed over the doctor's mind, that there was something of repetition in this dialogue. "Why, have I not told you before to ask Mrs Chauncy to give you a coat? get away." "Yes, massa,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

but I no want a black coat." "Not want a black coat, and why not?" "Why, massa, I fraid to tell you, but I don't want a black coat." "What's the reason you don't want a black coat? tell me directly." "O! massa, I don't want a black coat, but I fraid to tell the reason you so passionate!" "You rascal! will you tell me the reason?" "O! massa, I'm sure you be angry." "If I had my cane, you villain, I'd break your bones: will you tell me what you mean?" "I fraid to tell you, massa, I know you be angry." The doctor's impatience was now highly irritated, and Scipio perceiving, by his glance at the tongs, that he might find a substitute for the cane, and that he was sufficiently excited, said, "Well, massa, you make me tell, but I know you be angry, I fraid, massa, if I wear another black coat, Dr Cooper ask me to preach for him!" This unexpected termination realised the negro's calculation; his irritated master burst into a laugh: "Go, you rascal, get my hat and cane, and tell Mrs Chauncy she may give you a coat of any color; a red one, if you choose." Away went the negro to his mistress, and the doctor to tell the story to his friend Dr Cooper.' pp. 449, 450.

Among a few passages of this book, which might be advantageously omitted, may be mentioned, in the first place, all the sayings and writings of Mr. Otis, during his mental derangement. The ruins of a great mind have been often compared to those of a fine building, but the resemblance, though sufficient for many poetical purposes, fails altogether when we consider the effects severally produced by these objects, on those who contemplate them. No sensations are more diverse, than the soothing pensiveness, which steals over the feelings in the one case, and the mixture of pity and horror, which agitates and rends them in the other. We dissent from our author's opinion, that the disclosure of the facts to which we allude, might throw new light on Mr Otis' character. There is a difference of beauty among the young, says Juvenal, but there is but one face to the aged, and we think it true to nearly an equal extent, that the loss of reason reduces all understandings to a humiliating uniformity. Besides, the singular qualities of Mr Otis' mind are too clearly seen in what remains (little as it is) of the private history of his better days, to receive any additional illustration from a few anecdotes of its operations, while in a diseased condition. For these reasons we think it better, that the effects of his disorder on his conduct, should have been described only in general terms, and that no anecdotes should have been given of the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

latter part of his life, but those which relate to his lucid intervals.

We ought to observe, however, that those stories to which we now object, though in our opinion superfluous, are in no degree indelicate, and that the topic of Otis' insanity is invariably treated with the most respectful tenderness. But the only passages really unworthy of this volume, are a few of a lighter cast. Of the long string of puns, for example, annexed to the character of Dr Byles, one or two, at most, are all that can be tolerated. They are none of them superior to many which we daily hear in our social circles, and have been frequently retailed in works, in which they are far better entitled to a place.

The clearness and liveliness of our author's narrative, are by no means his highest, much less his only merits. Instead of confining himself to this branch of his duty; instead of merely chronicling events, and leaving his readers to make their deductions as they may, a practice for which our most respectable historians have been censured, not perhaps without plausible reasons, by foreign critics, he frequently awakens and directs our reflections by his own original and judicious comments. The uniform spirit of candor and good humor, in which these comments are uttered, cannot be too forcibly recommended to the imitation of our historical and political writers. The author seems every where free, if not from error, at least from passion, alike exempt from national, political, and local prejudices, jealous for the honor of his native state, but not less so, for that of our whole country. His most able and interesting remarks (if we can be considered as fair judges) are those which relate to the New-England character, a subject which, as he has more than once proved to the public, his previous researches have singularly qualified him for elucidating. With the exception of a few rather hasty and unqualified animadversions, on the intolerance of our forefathers, a point, in our opinion, not to be touched, without much caution and discrimination, we recollect nothing on this head, which is not highly creditable to his discernment and candor.

The style of this work is well suited to its subject, and finished with much greater care, than that of our author's former productions. His language, with the exception of a

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

few such words as 'ameliorating and coruscating,' is the purest English. He has offended in one or two instances against good taste, by the violent introduction of a labored simile, (in his comments, for example, on the manner of Otis' death,) but is generally equally free from ostentation and uncouthness, uniformly perspicuous, easy and lively, and occasionally highly eloquent. But his great excellence yet remains to be stated,—his power of drawing characters. This branch of a historian's duty has ever been considered one of the severest tests of his abilities. It is easy, and we are sorry to say it has lately been common, to describe our heroes and patriots, in unqualified superlatives and shadowy generalities, to represent all of them as alike perfect, and consequently exactly equal, and to supply the want of just and discriminating praise, by that vague panegyric, which,

> 'Like the prismatic glass
> Its gaudy colors throws on every place,
> The face of nature we no more survey,
> All glares alike, without distinction gay.'

Our author's sketches of celebrated individuals, on the contrary, are drawn with the force and naturalness, which are alone sufficient to persuade us of their correctness, and may be compared to the fine portraits, which, without having seen those whom they represent, we yet feel assured are accurate likenesses. They are at once concise and comprehensive. He points out, most fully and clearly, the distinguishing characteristics of Otis and his coadjutors, those qualities, in which their intellectual and moral identity consisted; commemorates, with high and well deserved praise, their several merits, and discloses their faults, with lenity indeed, but with independence and impartiality. It is no less to his credit, that his remarks on distinguished loyalists are those of a firm patriot, and a liberal enemy. The thirty-fourth chapter is devoted to the commemoration of Franklin, and the concluding paragraph is one of the most moderate and just summaries of the excellencies and infirmities of his unique character, which we have ever yet seen.

'He was not a man of profound learning. His discoveries and his writings were the expansive results of a vigorous mind, which were thrown off without pretension, and seemed as if designed rather for a pastime, than for fame. He was no orator, and yet his power of instructing, and carrying a point by means of some

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

striking apologue, was almost irresistible. He cannot rank high as a constitutional statesman, since he was in favor of the most radical and fatal error in a constitution, that of making a legislature to consist of one body. His theoretical deficiencies in religion may obtain forgiveness, through the number and extent of his beneficent efforts. His wit, his indulgent humor, and his intuitive discernment, made him the delight of society. His industry, his moderation, his love of peace, and his public spirit, established his merits as a citizen. His writings will ever preserve his name with his countrymen, while his discoveries will make its fame no less sure in the annals of philosophy. His connexion with the American revolution will place his statue in the temple of universal memory; but his most lasting claims to the gratitude of mankind were his powerful efforts against war, oppression, and inhumanity of every species. He was in truth a real philanthropist; and his views tended to promote the welfare of his race, under all governments, and in every clime.'—pp. 404, 405.

The character of Otis himself is described with the care and copiousness due to the hero of the work, and is thus recapitulated:

'In fine, he was a man of powerful genius, and ardent temper, with wit and humor that never failed: as an orator, he was bold, argumentative, impetuous, and commanding, with an eloquence that made his own excitement irresistibly contagious; as a lawyer, his knowledge and ability placed him at the head of his profession; as a scholar, he was rich in acquisition, and governed by a classic taste; as a statesman and civilian, he was sound and just in his views; as a patriot, he resisted all allurements that might weaken the cause of that country, to which he devoted his life, and for which he sacrificed it.' p. 494.

The description of Samuel Adams is written with still more spirit and elegance. After a candid disclosure of his prominent errors, his abilities and virtues are depicted in what may be considered the happiest passages in the whole work.

'He combined in a remarkable manner all the animosities and all the firmness, that could qualify a man to be the assertor of the rights of the people. Had he lived in any country, or any epoch, when abuses of power were to be resisted, he would have been one of the reformers. He would have suffered excommunication rather than have bowed to papal infallibility, or paid the tribute to St Peter; he would have gone to the stake, rather than to submit to the prelatic ordinances of Laud; he would have

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

mounted the scaffold, sooner than pay a shilling of illegal ship-money; he would have fled to a desert, rather than endure the profligate tyranny of a Stuart; he was proscribed, and would sooner have been condemned as a traitor, than consent to an illegal tax, if it had been only a six penny stamp, or an insignificant duty on tea; and there appeared to be no species of corruption by which this inflexibility could have been destroyed.

'With this unrelenting and austere spirit, there was nothing ferocious, or gloomy, or arrogant, in his demeanor. His aspect was mild, dignified, and gentlemanly. In his own state, or in the congress of the union, he was always the advocate of the strongest measures, and in the darkest hour he never wavered or desponded. He engaged in the cause with all the zeal of a reformer, the confidence of an enthusiast, and the cheerfulness of a voluntary martyr. It was not by brilliancy of talents, or profoundness of learning, that he rendered such essential service to the cause of the revolution, but by his resolute decision, his unceasing watchfulness, and his heroic perseverance. In addition to these qualities, his efforts were consecrated by his entire superiority to pecuniary considerations; he, like most of his colleagues, proved the nobleness of their cause by the virtue of their conduct: and Samuel Adams, after being so many years in the public service, and having filled so many eminent stations, must have been buried at the public expense, if the afflicting death of an only son had not remedied this honorable poverty.' pp. 276—278.

To conclude, we have looked upon this book, we confess, with a friendly, but certainly not with a flatterer's eye, and with the exception, perhaps, of a few minute defects, have given, in our opinion, a faithful, though incomplete view of its contents. If our expressions have done justice to our meaning, we must have declared in substance a highly favorable opinion of its general merit; a judgment, which we submit with confidence to the revision of our community of readers. Our author has nothing to fear from those who will allow him a hearing.

We have often lamented as a fact, not only humiliating to our reputation as patriots, but highly detrimental to our dearest public interests, the indiscriminate and undeserved neglect, which has been shown in this country to works relating to our own history. Such works, however deficient in point of finish, so they be but authentic and impartial—and these are the unquestioned merits of many of our annalists—are deserving of a far other destiny, than that of an iron

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

slumber on the shelves of their publishers. It is no light thing to arrest those important facts, which are every day falling into oblivion, which are only extant in the memory of a few individuals, and are continually borne away with them beyond the reach of human investigation. Thus to preserve such incidents is all that is now indispensably necessary ; to arrange and adorn them, may be left, not advantageously indeed, but safely, to the genius of future historians. Many, we know, will maintain, that it is asking too much of their patriotism to require them to wade through a dull chronicle of events, however important, that the only reason why American history is so little read is, that it is not more ably written, and that thus it must ever be in fact, whatever may be desirable in theory. Such remarks may be applied, we grant, with much justice to many of our historical works, but certainly not to this ; and should it fail of the reception due to its literary merits, to say nothing of any other, its fate will reflect as little credit on the good taste as on the patriotism of our countrymen.

For the benefit of those of our readers, if any, who may not have seen this volume, we have composed the following brief abstract of the life of Otis.

James Otis was born in West Barnstable, February 5, 1725, and received his early education from the reverend Jonathan Russell, the minister of the parish. Whether he gave any very early indications of his extraordinary genius is a point, on which we are altogether uninformed, a loss which will not be regretted by those, who reflect, that such indications are seldom related without exaggeration, and are in themselves exceedingly equivocal. At the age of fourteen, that is, in June 1739, Otis entered Harvard College. The two first years of his residence there were wasted in idleness, a negligence, which he more than redeemed in the remainder of the time. He took his bachelor's degree in 1743, and bore a part on that occasion, in a syllogistic disputation. After devoting eighteen months to the pursuit of general literature, and more particularly, as we are informed in a short sketch of his life, contained in the Monthly Anthology, to the reading of the most distinguished authors in Latin and Greek, and in the modern languages, he began the study of his profession under Mr Gridley, and continued in his office three years. On entering into practice, in the year 1748, he quickly rose to the high honors,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

which he had so well earned by his previous assiduity, and was considered in a short time as at the head of the Massachusetts bar. This high station procured him of course an extensive, and for those times a lucrative business. He was once called to Halifax, in the middle of the winter, to defend three men accused of piracy, and for his successful exertions in this case, received a fee, said to be larger than any ever given to an inhabitant of this province. During all these laborious and responsible avocations, his fondness for general literature, and more especially for the ancient classics, never deserted him. In 1760, the very year before he made his speech on the Writs of Assistance, he published his Rudiments of Latin Prosody, a book mentioned with high respect, by many accomplished scholars of later days. He also composed during his life a similar work on the prosody of the Greek language, which remained unpublished for want of types, and finally perished with the greater part of his manuscripts. We would dwell for a moment on these circumstances, as they furnish no trivial answer to a common, and with many of our fellow-citizens a weighty objection, against the study of ancient literature. It has often been maintained, (for what novelty has not found its patrons in this time of indiscriminate innovation?) that a great proficiency in classical learning, and more especially in its technical niceties, is an acquisition to be gained only at an expense of time and thought, utterly inconsistent with that practical usefulness, to which men in this country are so generally impelled by their circumstances, as well as by their duty. How was it then, that James Otis, with an education in no way superior to that now enjoyed by many of our youth, depending for subsistence on his own exertions, closely occupied in the practice of a laborious profession, unsurpassed, if equalled, by any of his contemporaries in legal acquirements; living not in studious retirement, but, in the strongest sense of the terms, in and for society, how was it that he, under all these circumstances, was yet enabled to acquire and display an extensive and minute knowledge of classical learning, which would do honor to a scholar of any age or country.

Immediately after his speech on the Writs of Assistance, Mr Otis was chosen almost unanimously by the citizens of Boston a member of the General Court, and was continually reelected till the year 1770, when he retired with the thanks of his

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

constituents for his previous services, and was chosen again for the last time in 1771. During his continuance in the legislature, he was appointed upon most of the committees, which reported the resolves and answers of the House of Representatives, so celebrated, under the name of the Massachusetts State Papers, and was, in fact, the chief author of the ablest of those documents. His principal coadjutor in these labors was Samuel Adams, who qualified, corrected, and polished the rough but energetic effusions of his friend's impetuous genius, and brought them to that highly finished state, in which they were given to the public. To recount the services of Otis during his public life, would be, as we have observed, to relate the whole history of that period. In the legislature, as at the bar, he held the highest station, and was considered by the English ministry, as the great arch-fiend of the rebellious spirits of Massachusetts. It ought also to be distinctly remembered, that on the third day of June 1776, he brought forward a proposition, and was afterwards made chairman of a committee to carry it into effect, for opening a gallery for such as wished to hear the debates, and was consequently the earliest in this country to suggest the propriety of public legislative proceedings; the first author of a measure, which, by disclosing to the people the reasonings as well as the decisions of their representatives, obliges the legislature to act with much of the deliberation of a judicial tribunal, and is universally considered one of the main supports of every free government.

During his performance of those high trusts, which the exigences of the times had thrown upon him, and for which he was so well fitted by his abilities, his learning, and his devotion to liberty, Otis displayed in most cases a command over his own spirit, which, to those who consider his peculiar temperament, will appear a glorious triumph of principle over feeling. His reigning infirmity, his master passion, was a blind impetuosity; yet we find him continually exerting the most unwearied and successful watchfulness, in regulating the movements of his fellow-citizens, and in restraining them from those excesses, which might mar the justice and honor of their cause. This self-control was at length overthrown, and the consequences, which followed, led to his final retirement from public duty.

He learned from copies of letters transmitted to him from

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

England, that the crown officers in Massachusetts had used every exertion to persuade the ministry to arrest him for high treason, and try him in the mother country. Provoked beyond all endurance by this discovery, he denounced by name the officers of the customs then residing in Boston, in a short advertisement, written in the most bitter and contemptuous terms, which his unrestrained indignation could supply. This piece was published September 4, 1769. On the following evening, about seven o'clock, he went to the British Coffee House in state street, where Mr Robinson, one of those whom he had denounced, was sitting with a number of army, navy, and revenue officers. Robinson, after a short altercation, attempted to chastise him, and struck him with a cane. A serious affray followed, the lights were extinguished, and Otis was obliged to combat single-handed against Robinson and several British officers. In the course of the contest he received many severe wounds, one of considerable depth in his head, and after the parties had been separated, was led home bleeding. Shortly afterwards he appealed for redress to the law of his country, and received two thousand pounds in damages from Robinson, which he released in court, upon receiving an humble apology.

From this time forth, he was subject to frequent intervals of loss of intellect; but whether these were occasioned solely by his wounds is questioned, and with much apparent reason, by his biographer. His mind was, in fact, of that highly susceptible and enthusiastic complexion, which frequently indicates a constitutional tendency to insanity.

In 1772, he retired not only from public, but from professional life, for though his lucid intervals were frequent, and his mind then resumed all its original brightness, yet the uncertain continuance of them necessarily prevented the intrusting of any business to his care. The most important of his actions, in his diseased moments, was the complete destruction of his papers, a business which occupied him two whole days. In 1781, he left Boston for Andover, where he resided with Mr Osgood, a respectable farmer, yet living. After the lapse of two years, his mind, in the opinion of all his friends, as well as in his own, had regained its former tone, and he returned to Boston in November 1782, with the purpose of resuming his legal practice. During this visit, he made a memorandum, yet preserved, in which he returns thanks to heaven, 'that he was restored

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

to the greatest of all blessings, a sound mind in a sound body.' This pleasing supposition was soon overthrown. So incomplete was his recovery, that the slightest physical or mental excitement again unsettled his reason, and in the spring of 1783, he returned to his residence in Andover. Six weeks afterwards, on the afternoon of Friday, May 23, 1783, while standing, during a thunder shower, near the door of one of the rooms, and conversing with the family, he was struck by a flash of lightning, and instantly fell dead in Mr Osgood's arms. His remains were brought to Boston, and buried with due honors. Mr Otis was married, in 1755, to Miss Ruth Cunningham of Boston, and had three children. Of his lineal descendants, only two great grand children are now living.

ART. XXII.—*The Loves of the Angels; a poem. By Thomas Moore.* New York and Philadelphia, reprinted, 1823.

MR MOORE'S talents are unquestionably peculiar, both as to their extent and their character. He has given to English literature a poetry equally delightful and original; and in some of the lesser and lower requisites of poetry—in exquisite melody of language and sparkling elegance of imagery—no one has approached him. He is the great song writer of this day; and ages have passed, since a poet lived, who could compress within the compass of a short and simple melody the graceful tenderness, the spirit and the system, that place Moore's songs upon the pianos and in the mouths of all the singing men and women in his own land or in ours.* And this is not all; he is almost as powerful in satire as in song. In some of his political pieces, there are, mingled with much nonsense and weakness, sarcasms of intense severity, which prove his power to be almost equal to his malice. But he has tried a yet higher flight, than either song or satire; in Lalla Rookh he failed somewhat, because he could not make long poems as much better than any one else, as he could songs, but no reader of poetry could begin any one of the tales in that book, and leave it unfinished, and no one could read many pages there, and not feel the burning thoughts and words, which came from no lips untouched with fire.

* Mr Campbell's patriotic songs are too sublime to enter into this comparison, and belong to the highest order of lyric poetry.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

So much praise we willingly concede to him;—and it is lamentable, that powers so admirable should be associated with qualities, which merit the severest reprehension, and must excite disgust. We do not speak too strongly. Mr Moore bears about with him the burthen of depraved, licentious tastes, and his genius is cramped and polluted by their foulness. He seems almost to know this himself, for it is not difficult to trace in his writings the effort to be pure, struggling with the habit of being gross; the strife of endeavor and resolution in conflict with this determined depravity. It is no little praise to say, that he really seems to have striven and fought in earnest, and the success, which must result from such endeavors, has already rewarded him in a degree commensurate with the reality and earnestness of his exertions.

Moore has constantly grown better as a poet, and—so far as his poetry is a test—as a man, since he first came before the public. It is not many years since it was a rude and indecorous thing to speak to a lady of Anacreon Moore; and an expurgated edition of his four volumes, original and translated, would have made so very thin a book, it was not thought worth the publication. From this abyss he emerged, and made many good songs, which might be read or sung by any one. His Sacred Songs were next published, most of which are quite unexceptionable. After this course of preparation, he made his great attempt, and wrote Lalla Rookh, in which there is absolutely nothing, that should keep it out of a decent parlor. At present he has taken one step farther, and published the Loves of the Angels. We were almost about to say, that this was a retrograde step, but it would be perhaps rather more just to say, that he is but where he was, and the rooted vulgarity of his tastes and the sensual tendency of his imagination are made more distinctly visible by his staining such a subject with their pollution; he has chosen to unite the holiest of created existences with the holiest of passions, to make himself a theme; and we feel, that it was a profanation to approach his work with gross impurity clinging to him.

We would not, however, be understood to charge Mr Moore with hypocrisy in treating religious matters with occasional demonstrations of reverence. We verily believe, that he has much regard, of a certain sort, to religion; and that he makes 'Sacred Songs,' and breathes an aspiration after heavenly

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

things—sometimes—in heartfelt sincerity. The leaven of earlier corruption has, however, not yet done its work, and while we gladly acknowledge, that a good influence is apparently active in separating the pure from the impure principles within him, we may regret, that the dregs still rise so frequently to contaminate the whole. We would however do him justice, and therefore admit, that he often seems to strive to give his poetry—as he has given the Hinda of his Fire-worshippers—

> 'A soul, too, more than half divine,
> Where through some shades of earthly feeling,
> Religion's softened glories shine,
> Like light through summer foliage stealing.'

It is unfortunate, that he does not oftener succeed in the attempt; but tastes and habits confirmed by long indulgence are not to be overthrown in a moment, and he is himself as yet, if we may use such a comparison, but as a fallen angel; with a voice attuned to celestial melodies, singing the songs of this lower sphere, and a wing, which should have borne him up to the empyrean, folded in weakness, and glittering, but with the night dews of earth; aspiring to reascend to heaven, but doomed by his own depravity to wander here.

The name of this poem has been long before the public, and with some seemed of itself to be quite proof enough, that the poem must be absurd and ridiculous. We confess we were not disposed to think so. It seemed to us not impossible, that Mr Moore had been induced to choose this subject by the consciousness, that he could touch it without profanation, or by the hope, that the contemplation of such things would purify and elevate his mind. We did venture to hope, the poet would have been borne upward by his theme from the licentiousness of his prevalent imaginations, into loftier and purer feelings. We have been disappointed. His thoughts seem to have wandered to heaven, only to seek and find there new luxuries for the revelling of passion, and fresh aliment for sensuality. Still we impute his failure not to any unfitness in his subject to become the theme of the loftiest song, but to his inability to attain unto it.

Few poets have dared to pass 'the flaming bounds of space and time,' and give their imaginations leave to range among the endless and boundless existences of an imperishable world. There are, however, instances, in which authors of imagina-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

tion have essayed to lift themselves above 'the smoke and stir of this dim spot, which men call earth.' All the beauty of Hogg's most beautiful poem arises from the conceptions of spiritual existence, with which it is stored, and which, whether correct or false, are distinct and glowing. To come nearer home, our own Irving has written few things so sweet and touching, so solemn and yet so delightful, as his reflections on St Mark's eve.

Why is it that subjects of this kind are so rarely attempted? Is it thought, that, as the flowers which bloom where spirits live, do not wither, no descant of lamentation can there be sung over the decay of the dying or the ruins of the dead;—that nothing of contrast is there;—the brightness of noon is not preceded by the awakening beauty of the dawn, or followed by the dying hues of sunset;—and no clouds are there to arrest the sunbeams, and clothe themselves with its glory? It may seem, that this stern necessity of our nature compels us to rest in the belief, that nothing can have to us any distinctness or life, that nothing is placed within the grasp of our conception, but the things which grow and perish on the surface of the earth; it is, however, most certainly any thing but pleasant to believe this.

In exact proportion as the brutal parts of our nature are enthralled by the nobler attributes of humanity, we are dissatisfied with the littleness and worthlessness of all things about us, and, refusing to regard the objects of this life, as an adequate end to our endeavors, or the pleasures this world offers, as enough, we lift ourselves in imagination and in hope to heaven. There are moments in the life of most men, when there is a feeling, as if darkness and chains had broken away; when the affections are pure and peaceful, and the thoughts are ranging free and high; when the existence, the love, and the presence of God are borne in upon our souls, with a power, that will not be withstood, and the heart is swelling, as if it would open to receive the whole influence of the Deity. We may well believe it is at such times, that man is most like to that which his spirit may be; and how idle would it seem to him, or rather what a loathing horror would it excite to tell him then, that his mind could not wander beyond the grave, and must rest satisfied with the belief, that they, whom he had loved and lost, were spiritual essences, without form or substance,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

which his hands might as well lay hold of, as his imagination or his faith attempt to approach. Every thing in his heart and in his mind would rise up to refute the falsehood; there would be a voice within him too loud and too distinct to be misunderstood or disregarded, and it would tell him, that the world of spirits is not an unimaginable abyss of nothingness, but the home of sentient, active beings, as conscious of individuality, and as full of thought and of affection, as they were before they went from time into eternity.

The doctrines of a future state are not to be proved by logical deductions from the truths our senses teach. It was well said by the author of the 'Light of Nature,' that not one in a hundred was ever satisfied with the arguments brought to prove the existence of God and another life, unless he was convinced, that these propositions were true, before he began to reason about them; because they, whose hearts and intellects are shrouded in a darkness, which is not penetrated by the higher proof to be derived from the direct perception of these first truths—from the intuition of the soul—can scarcely be enlightened by the feebler ray of reason. All knowledge and all belief rests, of course, upon intuition, as its first and necessary foundation; but is it therefore true, that the belief of spiritual truths must be referred to sensual perceptions, as its only primary source? There is an intuition of the soul, as of the eye. Man does not believe in his Maker, because he can institute a train of reasoning, a series of exact and logical inferences, and then feel his mind persuaded by his own arguments; but because he sees him;—'sees him in clouds, and hears him in the wind;'—and though argument and inference may afterwards sustain and confirm him in this belief, it could scarcely have originated from them, for it is only to those who already believe and feel, that there is a God, that his power and love are borne upon every sunbeam, and uttered in the breathing of every wind.

It is scarcely too much to say, that human reasoning can do no more to prove the reality of the sanctions of a future state, than is done in Butler's Analogy; yet all that is done there is to show, that the probability of this truth is sufficiently strong to warrant our acting upon it. Reasoning, mere argument, can do no more; but is there not in the heart of every man, who has any religion, a deep conviction, that far more than

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

this is true? When infidelity denies the infinite and eternal attributes of God, and urges, that the power, and wisdom, and love manifested in the universe prove the existence and operation of a cause adequate to the effects that appear—that is, of a God, if we please to say so, clothed with enough of divine attributes to make the world as it is, but that they do not prove, that there is one with sufficient love, or wisdom, or power, to make the world better than it is, it is not reason, but something higher than reason, it is not the head, but the heart that replies, for all the sin and suffering, the weakness and the wretchedness of man, and for all the disorder and desolation, which man has inflicted like a curse upon the world, we know that he who made it is love and wisdom.

We know then that God is illimitable, and that we live again, not because we can go back logically from effects through causes to a first cause, and not because we can gather from a world of ceaseless change, where every change of every thing is but a step towards decay and dissolution, proof of a coming state, which shall be eternal and absolute; but because, whenever earthly feelings do not so close around us, as to shut out every glimpse of heaven, we can see and feel, that there is a power somewhere, which can be limited and controlled by no other power, and that, while our bodies perish, the life that is in us dieth not. This is the highest proof of the highest truth; but this evidence asserts with as much force the character and condition of the eternal world, as its existence. We are driven by the necessity of our nature, to give a form and an individual existence to every thing, which we would make the subject of thought. There is not a sermon written from the heart, or preached with power, that does not speak of departed spirits, as perfectly retaining their recollections, their affections, their consciences, their identity. We cannot speak to a child, of heaven, and bid him be good, that he may go up from the grave and live there happily, but we give him at once an idea of another life, differing little from this in its external and apparent circumstances. We cannot stand by the bed of the dying, and comfort him who is convulsed with the agonies and trembling with the horrors of death, but by awakening within his soul the hope and the belief, that his being 'is sown a natural body, to rise a spiritual body;' and therefore that he is still to be,—still to be a man with all the thoughts and feel-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ings, which make him such, unharmed, untouched by the disease, which restores the frame he no longer needs to its original elements. Now these imperious, these unavoidable convictions of the mind and heart, upon which rest all the truths that dignify, and all the hopes which cheer humanity, should scarcely be considered as nothing more than the necessary weaknesses and wanderings of imperfect beings. Are they not rather glimpses of light permitted to shine upon our upward path, that we may not be in utter ignorance whither it shall lead? At any rate, who will deny, that impressions of an individual and substantial existence in another life are sufficiently strong and universal to give the most profound and spirit-stirring interest to poetry adequate to them?

It seems from the preface, that the Loves of the Angels was originally much more limited in extent, and somewhat different in its character. It was intended as an episode to a larger poem, which the author was or is preparing, but finding that lord Byron had chosen the same subject for a drama, he chose to come first before the public, that he might—to use his own words—'give himself the chance of a heliacal rising, before the luminary, in whose light he was to be lost, should appear.'

The Loves of the Angels is hardly as interesting as Lalla Rookh. There are in it no very striking passages, at least none that strike us as exhibiting so much power as many in the different tales of his larger work, though it contains much beautiful poetry, together with an abundance of conceits, which are generally more remote and obscure, than Moore's images are apt to be. There is not enough of story, and what little there is of it is not very well imagined or very well told; upon the whole, we should say it had fewer beauties and fewer faults, rather less nonsense, and decidedly more dulness, than any thing he has written.

The story is as follows:—and Moore shall begin it himself—

> 'Twas when the world was in its prime,
> When the fresh stars had just begun
> Their race of glory, and young Time
> Told his first birth-days by the sun;
> When, in the light of Nature's dawn
> Rejoicing, men and angels met
> On the high hill and sunny lawn,—
> Ere Sorrow came, or Sin had drawn
> 'Twixt man and heaven her curtain yet!

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

When earth lay nearer to the skies,
  Than in these days of crime and wo,
And mortals saw, without surprise,
In the mid-air, angelic eyes
  Gazing upon this world below.

* * * *

One evening, in that time of bloom,
  On a hill's side, where hung the ray
Of sunset, sleeping in perfume,
  Three noble youths conversing lay;
And as they look'd, from time to time,
  To the far sky, where Daylight furl'd
His radiant wing, their brows sublime
  Bespoke them of that distant world—
Creatures of light, such as still play,
  Like motes in sunshine, round the Lord,
And through their infinite array
  Transmit each moment, night and day,
The echo of his luminous word!

Of heaven they spoke, and, still more oft,
  Of the bright eyes, that charm'd them thence;
Till, yielding gradual to the soft
  And balmy evening's influence—
The silent breathing of the flowers—
  The melting light, that beam'd above,
As on their first, fond, erring hours
  Each told the story of his love,
  The history of that hour unblest,
  When, like a bird, from its high nest
  Won down by fascinating eyes,
  For Woman's smile he lost the skies.

The first who spoke was one, with look
  The least celestial of the three—

* * * *

Sighing, as through the shadowy Past,
  Like a tomb-searcher, Memory ran,
Lifting each shroud that Time had cast
  O'er buried hopes, he thus began.'

Then the first angel tells his story. He came to earth once on a time, upon some business which is not particularly mentioned, and saw accidentally 'Lea' bathing; he fell violently in love with her, but she proved to be purer than he, and, though she loved him, it was without passion. After a while,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

when it was about time for him to think of returning home, there happened to be a festival, at which Lea and her angel-lover were present; here, for the first time, he drank that liquor,

> 'Whose drops, like those of rainbows, smile
> Upon the mists that circle man,
> Bright'ning not only earth the while,
> But grasping heaven, too, in their span!'

that is to say, wine! The banquet over, he sought her in her accustomed bower, and while telling her he must soon depart, and soliciting some slight favor as a token of her love, he accidentally alluded to the spell word, which would expand his wings, and bear him to heaven. She eagerly demanded to know that spell, and promised on that condition to bless him; he told the word of power; she uttered it thrice; wings grew from her shoulders, and she flew to heaven, leaving her lover essaying in vain to follow her; for his power had departed, and his wings were paralyzed. The following passage describes this catastrophe with spirit:

> 'While thus I spoke, the fearful maid,
> Of me, and of herself afraid,
> Had shrinking stood, like flowers beneath
> The scorching of the south-wind's breath:
> But when I nam'd—alas, too well,
> I now recall, though wilder'd then,—
> Instantly, when I named the spell,
> Her brow, her eyes uprose again,
> And, with an eagerness, that spoke
> The sudden light that o'er her broke,
> "The spell, the spell!—O speak it now,
> And I will bless thee!" she exclaim'd—
> Unknowing what I did, inflam'd,
> And lost already, on her brow
> I stamp'd one burning kiss, and nam'd
> The mystic word, till then ne'er told
> To living creature of earth's mould!
> Scarce was it said, when, quick as thought,
> Her lips from mine, like echo, caught
> The holy sound; her hands and eyes
> Were instant lifted to the skies,
> And thrice to heaven she spoke it out
> With that triumphant look Faith wears,
> When not a cloud of fear or doubt,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

A vapor from this vale of tears,
Between her and her God appears!
That very moment her whole frame
All bright and glorified became,
And at her back I saw unclose
Two wings, magnificent as those
That sparkle round th' Eternal Throne,
Whose plumes, as buoyantly she rose
Above me, in the moon-beam shone
With a pure light, which—from its hue,
Unknown upon this earth—I knew
Was light from Eden, glistening through.
Most holy vision! ne'er before
Did aught so radiant—since the day
When Lucifer, in falling, bore
The third of the bright stars away—
Rise, in earth's beauty, to repair
That loss of light and glory there!'

The second is an angel of far higher rank and nobler attributes. His only fault was a thirst for knowledge, or rather an insatiable curiosity. However, he contrived to amuse himself pretty well with resolving sun-beams into their original elements, and, as new stars were born, flying from one to the other to see what they were made of, until women were created, and the whole passion of his soul was at once concentrated upon the new riddle. After a long and rather tedious search, he succeeded in finding 'Lilis,' who comprised within herself, all that could interest and charm in womankind.

There was a maid, of all who move
Like visions o'er this orb, most fit
To be a bright young angel's love,
Herself so bright, so exquisite!
The pride, too, of her step, as light
Along the unconscious earth she went,
Seem'd that of one, born with a right
To walk some heavenlier element,
And tread in places where her feet
A star at every step should meet.
'Twas not alone that loveliness,
By which the wither'd sense is caught—
Of lips, whose very breath could bless—
Of playful blushes, that seem'd nought
But luminous escapes of thought—

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Of eyes that, when by anger stirr'd,
Were fire itself, but at a word
Of tenderness, all soft became,
As though they could, like the sun's bird,
Dissolve away in their own flame—
Of form as pliant as the shoots
Of a young tree, in vernal flower;
Yet round and glowing as the fruits
That drop from it in summer's hour—
'Twas not alone this loveliness,
That falls to loveliest woman's share,
Though, even here, her form could spare
From its own beauty's rich excess
Enough to make all others fair—
But 'twas the mind,'———

Of course he fell violently in love, and she, not content with returning his affection, very unfortunately reciprocated his curiosity; for while they were together one day, she prayed, or rather commanded her lover to come to her, arrayed with all the glories, which he wore in heaven. He obeyed, and the fire, which was pure and innocent in his celestial home, had become a destroying flame, from his own depravity; and Lilis was consumed in his arms! The story is, of course, a repetition of that of Semele.

Of the third angel there is no story to tell. He and his mistress were exceeding good, being guilty of no sin but that of loving each other; but for this they were doomed to wander upon earth, while earth should be. From this last tale we make a long extract, which will be rather a favorable sample of the whole poem.

'And thus in humbleness they trod,
Abash'd, but pure before their God;
Nor e'er did earth behold a sight
So meekly beautiful as they,
When, with the altar's holy light
Full on their brows, they knelt to pray,
Hand within hand, and side by side,
Two links of love, awhile untied
From the great chain above, but fast
Holding together to the last—
Two fallen Splendors from that tree,
Which buds with such eternally,
Shaken to earth, yet keeping all
Their light and freshness in the fall.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Their only punishment, (as wrong,
However sweet, must bear its brand,)
Their only doom was this—that, long
As the green earth and ocean stand,
They both shall wander here—the same
Throughout all time, in heart and frame—
Still looking to that goal sublime,
Whose light remote, but sure, they see,
Pilgrims of Love! whose way is Time,
Whose home is in Eternity!
Subject, the while, to all the strife,
True love encounters in this life—
The wishes, hopes, he breathes in vain;
The chill, that turns his warmest sighs
To earthly vapor, ere they rise;
The doubt he feeds on, and the pain
That in his very sweetness lies.
Still worse, the illusions that betray
His footsteps to their shining brink;
That tempt him, on his desert way
Through the bleak world, to bend and drink,
Where nothing meets his lips, alas!
But he again must sighing pass
On to that far-off home of peace,
In which alone his thirst will cease.

All this they bear, but, not the less,
Have moments rich in happiness—
Blest meetings, after many a day
Of widowhood past far away,
When the lov'd face again is seen
Close, close, with not a tear between—
Confidings frank, without control,
Pour'd mutually from soul to soul;
As free from any fear or doubt,
As is that light from chill or stain,
The sun into the stars sheds out,
To be by them shed back again!—
That happy minglement of hearts,
Where, changed, as chemic compounds are,
Each, with its own existence parts,
To find a new one, happier far!
Such are their joys—and, crowning all,
That blessed hope of the bright hour,
When, happy and no more to fall,
Their spirits shall, with freshen'd power,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Rise up rewarded for their trust
In Him, from whom all goodness springs,
And, shaking off earth's soiling dust
From their emancipated wings,
Wander for ever through those skies
Of radiance, where Love never dies!'

We are at a loss to conceive the inducement under which Mr Moore wrote the notes to this poem. The learning with which they are overlaid, though all second hand, could not have been collected by him without a good deal of labor; and yet no one class of readers will be instructed or pleased by it. The learned theologian will smile at it; the *gentle reader* will let the leaves, which contain it, remain uncut; while all will think that it savors too strongly of pedantry, to become a real scholar, like Mr Moore.

ART. XXIII.—*A treatise on the Materia Medica, intended as a sequel to the Pharmacopœia of the United States: being an account of the origin, qualities, and medical uses of the articles and compounds, which constitute that work, with their modes of prescription and administration. By Jacob Bigelow, M. D. author of American Medical Botany, and Professor of Materia Medica in Harvard University.* Boston, Charles Ewer, 1822. pp. 424.

THIS treatise is founded upon the Pharmacopœia of the United States, which has been lately adopted. To this work it is, as its title implies, a supplement or sequel, and consists of a commentary upon its several articles, and an account of their design, character, and application to use. A pharmacopœia is, in its nature, little more than a mere catalogue. It contains barely the names and origin of the simple substances employed in medicine, or of those which, if not simple, come already prepared into the hands of the apothecary; and the names, ingredients, and modes of preparation of those which are compounded by him. It is a pharmaceutical directory, which enumerates and describes such drugs and preparations as are called for by physicians, but enters not at all into a discussion of their virtues. It is a mere book of business, containing the information which it is necessary for the physician and apothecary to have in common. It informs the apothecary what

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the physican requires; it reminds the physician of what his apothecary keeps. As a book of instruction alone, it has, of course, little value; and requires to be accompanied by other works which enter into a description of the qualities and virtues of the articles it enumerates, in order to become of much use to the student. Such a work is this of Dr Bigelow. It is intended as the companion of the Pharmacopœia. The establishment of a new system, which has altered in many particulars the pharmaceutical nomenclature formerly in use, new modelled many of the preparations, introduced some new articles and discarded some old ones, rendered such an undertaking at the present time peculiarly appropriate and seasonable.

A consideration of the materia medica, in the most extensive manner of which it is capable, would embrace a consideration of the general principles upon which external agents produce changes in the actions of the system; of the relation between those changes, and the processes taking place in disease, in consequence of which the remedy removes or alleviates it; of the general objects or indications to be had in view in the treatment of disease, and of the nature of disease as connected with those indications; besides a simple detail of the qualities and uses of the separate articles of which the list of medicines is made up. Indeed a complete view of the materia medica embraces nearly the whole field of pathology and therapeutics. A complete treatise upon it would contain the greater part of that which is found in systems of practice, under a different arrangement, and considered in a different relation. Few writers, however, have proposed to themselves so extensive a plan; and the author of the work before us has confined himself to a simple detail of the history and uses of the articles enumerated by the Pharmacopœia, without entering, except incidentally, into any of those discussions of a general character, to which we have alluded. So far as its plan extends, it is very complete; more so we suspect than any other modern treatise; and contains a greater mass of valuable information than is usually condensed into the same space. We can, of course, attempt no analysis of a book of this nature, particularly as the subjects, of which it treats, are possessed of little interest to general readers. But we proceed to give some slight account of the plan upon which it is written, with such remarks upon its character and execution as seem to us just.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

The subjects are arranged in alphabetical order; a method which undoubtedly has the recommendations the author points out and accords best with the objects he has in view, although it gives less opportunity for considering the *modus operandi* of medicines, or the *rationale* on which we are to proceed in their administration, than an arrangement into classes. It is true that a sketch of a system of classification is given at the commencement of the volume, and some remarks in explanation of the meaning to be affixed to the terms designating the different classes. But we think it would have been a valuable addition to the work, had the author entered into a more extended consideration of the general objects for which these different classes of remedies are administered, and the nature of their operation, since there are many important truths with regard to these subjects, and much information which might have been thrown together in this way, before entering upon the details of the work, for which a place could not afterwards be found under the head of any particular article.

Each article is described as it respects its origin, its qualities, its medical uses, its forms of exhibition, and doses. Where there is danger that its quality may be occasionally inferior, that it may have deteriorated, or been adulterated, the circumstances and appearance by which this can be ascertained are described, and much information afforded by which physicians may determine if the medicines met with in the shops of druggists are of good quality, from the proper source, and unmixed with any foreign ingredient.

More attention is paid to these circumstances than has usually been devoted to them in works upon materia medica, but yet not more than their real importance demands. People in general are not aware, and even physicians are not, to what changes the articles administered in disease are liable from a variety of different causes. Drugs, which are imported, are selected and brought from foreign countries, not by physicians and apothecaries, but by merchants. They are brought as an article of traffic and not as a mean of restoring health, and they are therefore liable to all the varieties in virtues and quality to which other articles of commerce are liable, from intentional adulteration and deceit, besides the circumstance that those engaged in the purchase are not often judges, and are therefore more likely to be deceived. They are also more

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

apt to be influenced by a regard to cheapness of price, than the excellence of an article, as the profit in the sale of an indifferent one at home, will not be lessened in proportion with the price abroad. Cheapness of price will also induce merchants to seek out new sources of supply for drugs which are scarce and in demand; competition between different sources will induce foreign dealers to reduce their price; whilst a reduction of price is generally accompanied by a deterioration of quality, or a change of the article for some other of a similar but inferior kind. And indeed such is the effect of different climates and different soils upon drugs of vegetable origin, that it is seldom that the same drug, coming from different places, is of exactly the same quality, although in common use it passes for the same, and is used in a like way.

Of such alterations and substitutions Dr Bigelow gives us a number of striking examples.

'The genuine African columbo has, for some years past, been nearly excluded from our shops, by an article brought in large quantities from New Orleans, possessing about half the bitterness of real columbo, and apparently the root of Frasera Walteri. It is just beginning to be discovered, that the real Peruvian bark is a scarce article in the markets of the United States, and that its place is taken by a cheaper bark, of a different character, brought from Carthagena and Caraccas, under the name of *yellow bark*, and which there are reasons for supposing to belong to a species of Portlandia. Our importing merchants and druggists inform me, that this Carthagena bark, under the name of yellow Peruvian bark, constitutes probably nine tenths of the reputed cinchona now consumed in the United States, its wholesale price being to that of real bark of Peru as about one to fifteen.

'The adulteration of medicines is so easily, if not frequently, effected, that it is not always safe to buy large quantities of any medicinal substance in powder. In Gray's supplement to the Pharmacopœias may be seen half a dozen recipes for a "Pulvis corticis Peruviani *factitius*," one of which consists of Peruvian bark, mahogany saw-dust, and oak saw-dust, ground together. In the same work is an *artificial Cayenne pepper*, which it is conscientiously recommended to color with *vermilion*, instead of *red lead*, which last is *injurious*. In this city, the occupant of a wind mill was lately indicted in one of our courts, for grinding gypsum into *cream of tartar*. Dr Paris mentions a fire in London occasioned by the owner of certain premises being employed in *making* Balsam of Copaiba.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

'The misapplication of names is frequently, even in articles of small consumption, a source of important error. I have seen the Hyoscyamus Niger offered for sale in this city under the name of *blessed thistle*, a harmless plant, still retained by the dispensatories. From the influence of English names, we very often find Carthamus substituted for Crocus, Celastrus scandens for Solanum dulcamara, and the latter for Atropa belladonna.' *Pref.* pp. 8, 9.

This is truly an important subject, and one to which physicians should pay more attention than they are accustomed to do, particularly those who are in the habit of dealing out their own drugs. Where apothecaries prepare and deliver medicines, it is of less moment to the faculty, because their standing and reputation will lead them to be cautious and faithful. We have been feelingly warned, within these few years, of the dangers that assail us through the medium of our food and drink. Mr Accum has excited an effectual alarm upon the subject of *death in the pot*, but what is this to *death in the pill*, though some evil-minded persons stand ready no doubt to say, what they affect to believe, that no less was to be expected? That the indulgences of the palate, highly seasoned viands, luxurious diet, unsparing potations should bring him to death's door, has been the lot of man from the infancy of his race? Intemperance of one kind or another has been the foe of his life and health from time immemorial, and it matters little whether the evil is perpetrated by unadulterated ragouts of the finest flavor and quality, or by a tough beef steak seasoned with artificial Cayenne pepper; whether the demon lurks in the shape of the sparkling juice of rich Madeira, or of the execrable mixtures sold under the accommodating name of bitters, for the morning drams or phlegm-cutters of our backwoodsmen. This might be submitted to; it is one of the ills that flesh is heir to. But when druggist and apothecary, pestle and mortar, enter into the lists against us; when death attacks us through our medicines as well as our diseases; when we swallow poison and saw-dust in the potion which we hoped to find a healing draught; when we find there is no balm in Gilead which is not sophisticated by vermilion, red lead, or plaster of Paris; this is indeed the unkindest cut of all, and we can only dispose ourselves to yield up the contest with what dignity we may, and fall with the dying exclamation of Cæsar upon our lips.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

It behoves patients and physicians both to have an eye to these matters. It is in vain for the one to prescribe, or the other to swallow, if the honest endeavors of both are to be thwarted by the substitution of some unhallowed and adulterated compound, instead of the pure elixir, the unalloyed balsam which alone can amend and heal. What avails it to the sick man, shuddering with the rigors of an intermittent fever, that he has the best medical advice that the twenty-four states can afford him, if he is doomed to perish under the infliction of a diet of *factitious* Peruvian bark, composed of the refuse of the tan-yard and saw-pit, soaked in a solution of aloes to give it taste, color, and *efficacy?* Who would not rather endure some at least of the tortures of indigestion, than throw himself upon the mercy of those who will send him, for the best ipecacuanha, a mixture of powdered sarsaparilla and tartar emetic; or still worse, a villanous compound of sulphate of zinc and the dust of decayed coffins? an ominous conjunction—a medicine, one would suspect, which might even be said, in some sort, 'to make the food it feeds on.'

Under the head of qualities, are described the various circumstances of taste, color, appearance, &c. by which we are enabled to distinguish medicines from one another, and to determine, in some measure, the excellence of particular specimens. In this connexion also is given such information as is important, with regard to the composition and chemical relations of the articles of the materia medica. So far as those derived from the mineral kingdom are concerned, a knowledge of their chemical composition and relations is of very considerable consequence, and should be accurately acquired. As it respects those from the vegetable and animal world, an intimate acquaintance is of far less importance, though some general notions with regard to their relations with one another, and their susceptibility of being influenced by chemical agents, are frequently found of great use. This knowledge becomes of service both in the composition of medicines and in their exhibition. For without it, the physician may mix such articles in his prescription, as shall act upon and neutralize one another, destroying the qualities of those on which its efficacy depended; or he may direct those to be taken simultaneously or at short intervals from one another, which shall combine in the stomach and either become inert, or form a third substance of a more powerful and dangerous nature.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

'But on the other hand,' says Dr Bigelow, 'it is not essential that we carry our chemical scruples so far as to consider all substances as incompatible, which produce chemical union or disunion, out of the body, and occasion a precipitate or a change of color. If chemistry be allowed to acquire this ascendency, it will encumber the practice of medicine with an insufferable load of clogs and difficulties, and surround our commonest medicines with a wall of incompatibles. We should not be able to prescribe the Peruvian bark with chalybeates, lest it should turn them into ink, nor with animal food, lest tannin and gelatine should conspire against us and fill the stomach with leather. It is important to bear in mind, that the digestive organs have a material control over the force of chemical agents; that while they promote some combinations, they prevent others; that they separate elements which have strong mutual attractions, and dissolve bodies which are insoluble in common menstrua. I believe that the incompatible character, given to some of our common medicines in books, has been deduced from chemical experiments more than from medical trials.' *Pref.* pp. 12, 13.

Of the late investigations of chemists into the composition of many of the vegetable medicines, and the nature of some of their constituents, a sufficiently full and complete account is given by our author, although he expresses an opinion, in which we heartily join him, that these researches are likely to be of very little real importance, and that those results only are of practical utility, 'which are sufficiently general to be uniform, permanent, and of easy application.' These researches indeed seem to be more nice than wise. They have been prosecuted to a degree of minuteness which reminds one of the microscopic discoveries of former days; and that too by instruments of investigation as deceptive and as imperfect. Not only the common constituents of vegetables have been found to differ in almost every different plant, such as gum, mucilage, resin, volatile oils, &c. but a great proportion of those which have active properties present, upon analysis, some new, distinct, and peculiar principle, or an acid or an alkali. Some plants, in fact, have two or three of them; thus in opium, meconic acid, morphine, and narcotine; in cinchona, kinic or cinchonic acid, and two alkalies bearing the names of cinchonine and quinine. When we consider the intrinsic difficulty and delicacy of the analysis of vegetable substances, the nature of the processes and agents to which they are sub-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

mitted, often alone sufficient to destroy their chemical character, and the opposite and almost contradictory results obtained by different individuals from the examination of the same plants, it is not perhaps too much to say, that there is in many cases a probability that the elementary principles supposed to be procured, are rather produced than simply evolved by the operation.

Under the heads of Uses and Exhibition are considered the physiological influence of medicines, the effects produced by them upon the body, considered as a vital system, their application in disease, and their doses, modes and times of exhibition. This embraces by far the most important part of a treatise on materia medica, and it is on the character of this part that its value must principally depend. In these respects the work before us is judicious, discriminating, and exceedingly practical; particularly so in pointing out very clearly the comparative value of different articles, and furnishing data from which the student may determine for himself what degree of faith to attach to the reports of the efficacy of various medicines, with which he is constantly assailed. Indeed the highest recommendation, perhaps, which it possesses, is found in the good common sense with which it abounds, and which is particularly displayed in the opinions delivered with regard to the virtues and properties of medicinal agents.

There is one circumstance in which we think an improvement might be suggested, and that is with respect to the proportion of space devoted to the consideration of different medicines. Some notice is bestowed upon all; enough in all cases to enumerate their real or reputed powers; and a larger share of it upon those whose undoubted efficacy as remedies gives them a claim to particular distinction. In general this attention is very accurately distributed according to their relative importance; but there are a few articles with regard to which we regret that the author did not think it worth while to enter into a more copious and extended detail of their character and agency in the treatment of diseases. This might have been done without enlarging too much the size of his book. The fact is, that notwithstanding the immense number of articles of which the physician occasionally makes use, he depends principally upon a very few. Probably were three quarters of the articles of the materia medica struck from its lists, the practice of medicine would be more safe and certain

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

than it ever has been. It has been remarked, that the most celebrated and successful practitioners have been those whose number of agents was limited, and whose method of treatment was exceedingly simple. This arises from the fact, that a thorough acquaintance with the powers of a few important medicines is of more advantage, than a superficial acquaintance with those of a great many.

There are many circumstances which would lead us to give the work of Dr Bigelow a preference over most of those which are in common use. It is distinguished by a more judicious and discriminating selection of its materials, a comprehensive brevity in its descriptions, and a greater freedom from useless redundancy. Many of the dispensatories in the hands of physicians are too large and copious for convenient consultation; and this not from the quantity of useful information which they contain, but from the dilution of their valuable matter by an abundance of that which is irrelevant, so that one is completely lost in the heterogeneous mass of good, bad, and indifferent, in which he finds himself immersed. In fact, there is no department of medical science, which has had so little justice done it as the materia medica. There is no one subject, except perhaps the wonders of the invisible world, upon which the credulity of mankind has been so unremittingly called into exercise, as that of the efficacy of external and internal applications of medicinal substances to effect the cure of diseases. There is nothing, about which they are so easily deceived by stale and palpable artifices. They stand always ready to believe the most exaggerated and improbable representations with a faith which strains neither at the gnat nor the camel. Of this disposition of mankind, physicians have always had their due proportion; and it has displayed itself, more especially, in treatises on materia medica. It has been the misfortune, too, of works of this kind, that they have generally been compilations, and have thus not only given currency to the unfounded notions of their authors, but have also embodied the accumulated results of the credulity of all other writers, and entailed them upon their unhappy readers. Speaking of the materia medica, Bichat remarks, that 'an incoherent assemblage of incoherent opinions, it is perhaps, of all the physiological sciences, that which best shows the caprice of the human mind. What do I say? It is not a science

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

for a methodical mind, it is a shapeless assemblage of inaccurate ideas, of observations often puerile, of deceptive remedies, and of formulæ as fantastically conceived, as they are tediously arranged.'* An individual, not yet initiated into the arcana of medical science, would be led to imagine, from the perusal of some books of this kind, which enjoy a good share of reputation, that the resources of the art of healing were inexhaustible; that for every disease there was a remedy, upon which you might lay your finger at once, without dread of failure. The only merit, of which their authors seem to have had an idea, was that of industry in collecting; of judgment and discrimination in selecting and collating, they could have had no conception.

It certainly is a high recommendation of the present work, that it is free from that implicit credulity which admits accounts of the virtues of medicines, not only without good assurance of the authority on which they are alleged, but without even an examination of it. There are no gross and unqualified statements, borrowed loosely from those whom accident, interest, or desire of personal reputation—for there are some men who seem to consider their character implicated in maintaining that of a remedy they have introduced—have led to make exaggerated representations of the effects which they have witnessed from the exhibition of some particular articles. All the opinions delivered with regard to the powers of medicines are tempered by that philosophical spirit of scepticism, with which every one, who has been engaged in the practice of physic with an unprejudiced observation, must approach the subject. There is no undue commendation bestowed, no extravagant praise; the claims of all are examined with fairness, and justice is generally administered to them with great equality.

We have one word to say with respect to the style, which, along with other circumstances, recommends this work to the attention of physicians. It is neat, plain, perspicuous, and concise. And these are no small excellencies, when it is compared with some of the medical productions of our countrymen, whose ambitious and inflated manner, particularly when contrasted, as it may sometimes be, with their lean ideas, shows more of a disposition to cull the flowers of rhetoric, than gather

* Anat. Generale, Introd.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the seeds of science, forgetting, no doubt, that where the blossom is monstrous, the fruit is apt to be abortive.

To our remarks upon this work, we wish to add some account of the National Pharmacopœia, by the appearance of which it was suggested, and upon which it is founded. We are the more desirous of doing this, because it has been made the subject of so much undeserved censure and obloquy, that we esteem it almost a duty to do what little lies in our power to remove the prejudice which may have been excited against it in the minds of those who, not being members of the medical profession, are themselves incapable of forming a fair judgment of its merits.

The proposal for forming a Pharmacopœia of the United States, was made by the late Dr Lyman Spaulding, of New York, a gentlemen much respected in his profession, to the New York County Medical Society, in the beginning of the year 1817. It was favorably received by that society, and in accordance with it, the next year, a plan for effecting the object was prepared, and measures taken to carry it into execution. According to this plan, district conventions were to be called in each of the grand divisions of the United States, Eastern, Middle, Southern, and Western. These conventions were to select delegates to form a general convention, to be held at Washington, and each was requested to prepare a Pharmacopœia to be submitted to that meeting. In pursuance of this plan, and in consequence of an invitation from the society which originated it, delegates were elected from a great proportion of the medical societies and schools in the different parts of the United States. Only two, however, of these district conventions had a meeting, the eastern and middle, each of which prepared a Pharmacopœia. Still, in the southern states, although a quorum did not assemble, yet measures were taken to secure the election of delegates for the general convention. This was held in the city of Washington, in January 1820. The eastern, middle, and southern districts were represented, and from the pharmacopœias presented by the two former, the convention proceeded to compile a pharmacopœia for the United States, which was published at Boston in the course of that year, and has gone extensively into circulation throughout the country.

In the formation of it, the American medical public was

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

fairly represented. The plan met with a more cordial approbation and a more ready co-operation than could have been anticipated. Twenty incorporated medical bodies, including state societies and the faculties of colleges, of seventeen different states, beside the District of Columbia, expressed their decided concurrence in the measures that were adopted, and nearly all of them were represented in the convention at Washington. The pharmacopœia has been given to the world with the countenance of the great body of the profession, its authority cannot well be questioned, and those who concurred in its formation are, in some measure, bound to give it their support, in spite of the imperfections which it no doubt possesses, but which, from the nature of the case, one would have expected to find in greater number rather than in less.

These imperfections are such as may be easily corrected when pointed out, as they are the results of haste and consequent oversight, and are not of a nature to affect essentially the substantial merits of the work. A fair and manly discussion of its faults is desirable. For when once pointed out and clearly designated, they may be amended. For this object the convention has made ample provision, and has designated the authority by which any requisite alterations may be made. In fact a long list of Corrigenda has been already published. In this way, we have every reason to hope that the pharmacopœia will be purged of such defects as it still retains, and rendered an honor as well as a convenience to the American faculty. Not that it can be expected that universal satisfaction is ever to be given, or that the work can be made, we will not say so perfect, but so accommodating, as that all parties shall be contented with it. It would indeed be a curiosity, if captious and capricious criticism could not find a flaw in it. But even in its present state, notwithstanding the objections with which it has been met in some quarters, we conceive that it is calculated to answer a very important purpose.

The great objects of a national pharmacopœia are to establish a uniformity in the names and preparations of medicines throughout the United States; that the physician, wherever he may be, shall be sure of having, for the same name, the same article, or the same preparation, made of the same materials, and of the same strength; that, in the perusal of medi-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

cal works, from whatever quarter of our country, we may understand what agents and what preparations are intended by the terms employed. It is notorious that, heretofore, this has not been the case; that, even in the same city, you may find in the shops of different druggists articles put up or prepared according to different pharmacopœias; whilst in one state the Edinburgh may be in vogue, and in another the London. This is a great evil; and if the national work is sufficiently well done to do it away, we can afford to overlook those faults in its construction which do not affect its usefulness in this respect. We do not hesitate to say, that this is decidedly the case, that the work, with such corrections as have been made in it, is fully adequate to this object, and we trust that it will gradually succeed in effecting it.

We are disposed to go further than this; we think that the American pharmacopœia has many excellencies, particularly in its general plan, which will render it, when it has gone through the necessary correction, every thing that could be wished. It is easy to point out inaccuracies and oversights in the detail, for these are inseparable from a work made up by a number of hands, and in great haste; but it is not easy to point out any very considerable defects in its general construction.

A pharmacopœia must always be, to a greater or less degree, an imperfect work, from the doubtful and unsettled nature of the subject itself. It may be said to stand upon ground which is perpetually shifting and giving way. New observations and discoveries make, daily, some changes in the number and relative importance of the articles of the materia medica, and this, of course, makes some corresponding change necessary in the pharmacopœia. The American work will bear a pretty good comparison with others of the same kind. It has not been more hardly dealt with by its enemies, than those of London and Paris, both published under the auspices of the principal medical authorities of their respective cities. The latter of these has been said to be a 'libel upon the age and country that produced it.'

It was not to have been expected, that a convention of physicians, called together from the most remote parts of the country, with great inconvenience and sacrifice to themselves, should have been able in the haste with which they must have

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

transacted their business, unacquainted with the views, feelings, and opinions of each other, to prepare a work which should stand the test of criticism, or should be more than tolerably perfect. A convention was not proposed, because it was thought that a convention would prepare a better pharmacopœia than could be prepared in any other way. On the other hand, it is plain enough, that there is no other way in which such a work would not be likely to be better done. Many physicians, individually inferior to any member of the convention, would probably make a better system, than they could do in their collective capacity. But a convention was proposed, because it could do what no other body could do, put forth a work with *authority*, one which should be universally adopted, and establish uniformity, to which all other recommendations are secondary. It is far better to have one system, indifferent in itself, but universally adopted, than a number of them, each exceedingly perfect, and complete in itself, but of narrow and limited authority. As it is, we look upon the formation of the pharmacopœia of the United States, as an event upon which the medical profession and the public ought to be congratulated. It can hardly be doubted that, emanating, as it does, from the highest possible authority, it will, sooner or later, receive the support of physicians at large, and be acknowledged as the basis of pharmaceutical language and preparation throughout the country.

We are glad to be able to add, that several of the most respectable medical bodies in the country have, by an express vote, adopted the pharmacopœia of the United States, as their standard. This has been the case with the state medical societies of New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. The latter has given up its own pharmacopœia, prepared many years since, and generally in use, to adopt that of the United States.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ART. XXIV.—*Report of the commissioner of the school fund, May* 1822, *to the honorable general assembly of the state of Connecticut, holden at New Haven on the first Wednesday of May* 1822. *Signed James Hillhouse, commissioner of the school fund.*

EDUCATION, in its various forms, as we have already had several opportunities to remark, is a subject which at present excites more than usual interest and inquiry in all parts of the union; not only among individuals, but in legislative bodies. From its intimate connexion with the public prosperity and improvement, few subjects have a stronger claim on the attention of all classes of the community. We have, therefore, thought it would be, on this account, peculiarly acceptable to such of our readers as are disposed to speculate on this topic, to see occasionally, in our pages, such facts as are well ascertained in the practice of any state, or of any portion of our country, in the administration of so important a concern. It is of great moment, that the regulations adopted respecting schools, as well primary as those of a higher order, should be originally suited to the somewhat peculiar circumstances of the people of this country. To this object, a full knowledge of the excellencies and defects of existing systems of education may greatly contribute. It may indeed be thought, from the facility with which many of our laws are amended or repealed, that a plan for public schools can be as easily improved, when experience shall have shown its imperfections, as any ordinary statute, or the charter of some petty corporation; yet a little attention will satisfy an inquirer, that there are few subjects where prejudice has greater sway than in this, or where the public good is more liable to be sacrificed to local and individual interests, partial benefit, and narrow views.

The state of Connecticut, as is probably known to many of our readers, possesses a large fund, known by the name of the School Fund, which, by an article in the constitution of that state, is appropriated exclusively to the benefit of common schools. From the report of the commissioner of this fund to the legislature of Connecticut, in May last, the title of which report stands at the head of this article, it appears, that the amount of dividends to common schools, the preceding year, that is, in October 1821, and March 1822, was no less a sum

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

than $67,791.20. A part of this money, however, was a certain portion of the state tax, which is by law annually added to the interest of the fund. This fund for the advancement of learning, in the single department of common schools, whether considered in reference to the resources of the people who have made it, or to what has been done in other parts of the United States for the same object, is a provision so extraordinary, and indeed unprecedented, that we have been induced to make some inquiry into its origin, application, and effects. In the prosecution of our design, we have been led to investigate, to some extent, the progress of the school-system of Connecticut, and have noticed certain facts, which we have thought it not improper to detail, especially as they seem to throw some light upon what are understood to be the prevailing opinions and feelings of the people of that state on the general subject of education.

The present state of Connecticut was originally two distinct colonies, the colony of Connecticut, and the colony of New Haven. It does not appear, that among the original laws of either of those colonies, any very express provision was made for the regulation and support of schools. Both governments, as is well known, managed the most important concerns, in their respective communities, not according to the provisions of any written law, but the discretion of the magistrates and clergy; that being ordered and enforced, which appeared reasonable and expedient, as cases of very different kinds, in civil and even in domestic life, came under consideration. The education of children, according to this primitive, and, in some respects, patriarchal system, seems to have been recognized from the first as an indispensable duty, and to have been enforced by severe penalties; but the several plantations were allowed, either to establish schools within their respective limits, or to teach their children the elements of learning in the family, as, in the feeble state of those colonies, might be thought most convenient.

This was undoubtedly the original plan of education in the colony of New Haven. In the system of laws of that colony, published in the year 1656, the following are the provisions for 'children's education.'

'It is ordered that the deputies for the particular court, in each plantation within this jurisdiction, for the time being, or

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

where there are no such deputies, the constable or other officers in public trust, shall from time to time have a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbors within the limits of the said plantation, that all parents and masters do duly endeavor, either by their own ability and labor, or by *improving* such schoolmaster or other helps and means as the plantation doth afford, or the family may conveniently provide, that all their children and apprentices, as they grow capable, may, through God's blessing, obtain at least so much as to be able to read the scriptures and other good and profitable printed books in the English tongue, being their native language," &c.

Parents and masters, found to neglect this duty, were, on the first complaint, to be fined ten shillings; on the second complaint, three months after the first, twenty shillings; on the third complaint, they were to be fined still higher, or their children or apprentices were to be taken from them, and put under the care of others, males till twenty-one, and females till eighteen years of age.

This law contains, what appears from various circumstances to have been the practice in the colony of New Haven from its first settlement, but probably the system had never been reduced to writing till the compilation of this code. As soon as a government had been regularly organized, a colony grammar school was also established in New Haven, under the superintendance of Ezekiel Cheever, who was afterwards master of the Latin school in Boston, and whose Latin Accidence, compiled in that method, 'which he found most advantageous by seventy years' experience,' may be known to some of our readers. In the year 1654, a plan for the establishment of a college was brought by the Rev. John Davenport before the colonial legislature, and the town of New-Haven made a donation of land to the proposed seminary. A bequest from governor Hopkins, in 1656, enabled the government to take some measures towards the erection of the colony grammar school into a college; but the dissolution of the colony, which soon followed, prevented the completion of their design. The colony school has since been known by the name of the Hopkins grammar school, and is the oldest literary institution in Connecticut.

In the colony of Connecticut, the laws respecting schools seem not to have been materially different. In the laws of that colony, published in the year 1672, eight years after the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

union of Connecticut and New Haven, there is a provision on the subject of education, very similar in its language to that we have just copied from the first New Haven code. It is there ordered, that 'the selectmen of every town, in their several precincts and quarters, shall have a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbors, to see that none of them shall suffer so much barbarism, in any of their families, as not to endeavor, by themselves or others, to teach their children and apprentices so much learning, as may enable them perfectly to read the English tongue,' &c. The penalty for neglect was twenty shillings. In the same code, it is ordered, that every town, containing fifty householders, 'shall forthwith appoint one, within their town, to teach all such children as shall resort to him, to write and read, whose wages shall be paid either by the parents or masters of such children, or by the inhabitants in general, as the major part of those who order the prudentials of the town shall appoint,' &c. It is further provided, 'that, in every county town, there shall be set up and kept a grammar school, for the use of the county, the master thereof being able to instrust youths so far, as they may be fitted for college.'

In the year 1677, to render the existing law respecting schools more effectual, it was enacted, 'that every town, by the said law ordered to keep a school, that shall neglect the same above three months in the year, shall forfeit five pounds for every defect, and said fine shall be paid towards the maintenance of the Latin school in their county: all breaches of this law to be taken notice of and presented by the grand jury at every county court.' The following year the number of families in a town, obliged to maintain a public school, was reduced from fifty to thirty.

It appears that, notwithstanding the several penalties for neglect of maintaining schools, the laws on this subject were not universally executed, as in the year 1690, we find an additional statute, which, after reciting in the preamble, that there were still 'persons unable to read the English tongue, and thereby incapable to read the holy word of God, or the good laws of this colony,' among other provisions, contains the following; 'that the grand jurymen, in each town, do, once in a year, at least, visit each family they suspect to neglect this order, [to teach their children and servants to 'read dis-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

tinctly the English tongue,'] and satisfy themselves whether all children under age, and servants in such suspected families, can read the English tongue, or be in a good procedure to learn the same or not; and if they find any such children and servants not taught, as their years are capable of, they shall return the names of the parents or masters of the said children or servants to the next county court,' &c. The penalty is twenty shillings 'for each child or servant, whose teaching is or shall be neglected, contrary to this order.'

In the year 1700, a law was passed, which placed the common schools of Connecticut on the foundation where they continued, with little variation, till since the establishment of the present fund. It was then required, that in every town, having seventy or more householders, a constant school should be kept, and when there were less than seventy, a school should be kept half the year. It was likewise enacted, that the inhabitants of every town should pay forty shillings on every thousand pounds of taxable property, estimated according to a rule prescribed by the legislature in their general system of taxation, for the support of the schoolmaster, to be collected with the public or county tax; and if any town failed to provide a schoolmaster according to law, this sum was to be collected and paid to the county treasury, as a fine upon such negligent town. Where this fund was insufficient to support the school, the deficiency was to be made up, one half by the inhabitants of the town, and the other half by the parents or masters of the children. By a subsequent law, towns and ecclesiastical societies were empowered to divide themselves into districts, and to alter the same; and each district was entitled to its proportion of the public money, for the support of its school.

We have gone, perhaps, more into detail, in this case, than many of our readers may think necessary; others, however, we have no doubt, will be gratified with a full view of early legislation, on a subject so important as the establishment and progressive improvement of a system of general education in an infant colony. It is obvious from the facts here stated, that the legislature and the great body of the people of Connecticut were from the first fully determined on securing the instruction of every individual, at least in the rudiments of learning. The several changes, in the details of their system,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

did not originate in any instability of purpose, but were rendered necessary by the delinquencies of certain towns, where, from various causes, the existing penalties were insufficient to secure to the laws a prompt and entire execution. The clause in the law of 1700, by which a tax of forty shillings on every thousand pounds was collected through the colony for the support of instructers, and by which the benefit of this tax was limited to those towns which supported schools the time prescribed by law, undoubtedly contains the efficient measure which secured the object so long aimed at, the universal establishment of common schools. The tax for schools being collected with the county tax, had not the odium attached to it of a fine incurred by delinquency; while it was attended with all the advantages which such a fine could promise. It was left to the option of the towns, whether they would make the necessary addition to the public money, and expend it for the purpose designated by the legislature, or, after it had been collected, leave it for the common and ordinary uses of the county. The consequence was such as had been anticipated from the law, and schools were every where maintained.

From this time very little alteration was made in the system of primary education. Occasionally new regulations* were thought necessary, but the great features of the scheme were unchanged. From what is known of the state of the schools, as well as from universal tradition, it appears, that the laws were now rigidly executed; a school was brought to every man's door; the poor, and even the slave, were always within the reach of instruction; and hence, for more than a century, in Connecticut, a native of mature age, who, in the language of the old statutes, 'was unable to read the English tongue,' has been looked on as a prodigy.

We have already mentioned that among the first laws enacted on the subject of education, after the union of the two colonies of Hartford and New Haven, was one providing

* One new statute appears in the edition of the laws of 1718, which contains a provision highly characteristic. 'If any be unable to do so much, [that is, 'to teach their children and apprentices so much learning as may enable them perfectly to read the English tongue'] that then at the least, they procure such children and apprentices to learn some short orthodox catechism, without book, that they may be able to answer to the questions that shall be propounded to them, out of such catechism, by their parents or masters, or ministers, when they shall call them to an account of what they have learned in that kind,' &c.—Penalty, twenty shillings, in each case, for the use of the poor.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

for a grammar school in each county town, and a small grant of land was made to the four counties of Hartford, New Haven, Fairfield and New London, for the support of such schools. As this law, however, instituting grammar schools, was enforced by no penalty, and the grant for their maintenance was very inconsiderable, nothing effectual seems to have been accomplished. By the statute of 1677, as already stated, the forfeitures of those towns, which neglected to maintain common schools according to law, accrued to the benefit of the Latin schools in their respective counties;—but this provision was no doubt very unacceptable to the people, as it was enforced a few years only. In the year 1690, the legislature again took up the subject of grammar schools, and 'considering the necessity and great advantage of good literature,' passed a law establishing 'two free schools, to teach reading, writing, arithmetic, and the Latin and Greek tongues, the one at Hartford and the other at New Haven.' These schools were to be maintained, partly by the counties in which they were placed, partly by the 'school revenue,' and partly by the respective towns of Hartford and New Haven. This project seems to have failed; as in the new law respecting schools, in the year 1700, the subject of grammar schools is passed over, in the general provision, that a grammar school shall be maintained in the chief town of each county, without prescribing any plan for its establishment or support. The law, as was probably anticipated, remained a dead letter; and no subsequent attempt to afford adequate encouragement to schools of a higher order, at least, no attempt attended with success, so far as we have been able to learn, has ever been made. We consider it, however, as no feeble testimony to the importance and even necessity of superior schools, that exertions for their establishment should have been commenced in the very infancy of those colonies. The subject was then judged of on its own merits, without any undue influence from the fear of popular dislike. No trial had been made, and the measures first taken were, no doubt, approved by all, till it appeared, that, in their execution, expense would be incurred. But poverty and a scattered population might then be urged with some plausibility against any expenditure not for objects of first necessity, and which was not in its immediate effect for the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

equal benefit of all. But at any time during the last century, and especially at present, whatever may have been or may still be the plea, the real reason for limiting the patronage of the legislature to schools of the lowest kind, must be something very different from the want of ability to support them. The fact seems to be, that originally the necessity of confining all expenditures for instruction to common schools was real. The value of that literature which is taught in higher seminaries, was duly appreciated, but the legislature felt, that a very important object had been attained in the general establishment of common schools, and left it to their successors to improve upon their system, as the means of the people should become more abundant, and the community have a stronger conviction of the benefit of an enlarged education. But their expectations have not been realized. The public mind had an early bent, perhaps from too much being attempted at first, or from some injudicious measures at first adopted, but which are not now distinctly known, against all legislative provisions for academies or a college, which it has been impossible to correct, notwithstanding the original cause, certainly so far as poverty may have been connected with the effect, has long ceased to exist.*

Yale College had its origin in the efforts of the clergy. It was founded in the year 1700, but the government did little for its support and encouragement. From a report, which now lies before us, of a committee of the legislature of Connecticut at their session in New Haven in May last, it appears, that the grants from the state to that institution down to the year 1792, that is, in the first ninety two years of its existence, amount to little more than twenty thousand dollars. Its growth and prosperity were owing, in all beyond this sum, entirely to private benefactions. Of this twenty thousand dollars, no inconsiderable part was derived from such sources,

* Besides the very small grant of land to the four counties of Hartford, New Haven, Fairfield, and New London, for the support of Grammar schools, no appropriation for any similar object, so far as we can learn, has been made in Connecticut, except to the Episcopal academy at Cheshire. This academy has had a grant of a lottery to raise fifteen thousand dollars. If two thirds, or even one half, of this sum has been obtained, considering the age of the academy, and the comparative number of those it was intended more particularly to benefit, it is much the largest grant ever made in Connecticut for any literary institution. The other academies of the state have been established by private beneficence and individual exertions.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

as clearly show, that the state was never disposed to make heavy sacrifices for the benefit of its college. Among the 'ways and means,' we notice, in the documents before us, the proceeds of a prize ship, excise on rum, wild land, and a lottery.

In the year 1792, a grant was made to Yale College by the legislature of Connecticut, and enlarged in 1796, by which, according to the report, to which we last referred, the college received $40629.80. This money, it appears, was derived from certain arrearages of taxes, which had been imposed to meet expenses incurred in the revolutionary war. As Congress was about to assume the state debts, payments from the state to its creditors were stopped, and a sum of money from this source was ultimately at the disposal of the legislature. The proposition to appropriate it to the aid of Yale College, as the measure contemplated no new burden on the public, afforded a fair opportunity of trying the real feelings of the state with respect to that institution. The appropriation met with much opposition, especially that part of it, which came under the consideration of the legislature in the year 1796; but was finally made in consequence of the very great exertions of a few liberal minded individuals, among whom the present commissioner of the school fund is understood to have acted a distinguished part, and to deserve no small share of the honor of that measure. Numerous members of the house of representatives were well known to have given their votes for the appropriation with the full persuasion that it would be the last act of their political life, and the event proved the correctness of their anticipations. Seldom has there been a case, where a public measure, dictated by no party or selfish views, has met from a people a more decided disapprobation, than this grant to Yale College encountered in the enlightened state of Connecticut.

We have been the more particular in our statements respecting the grant to Yale College, as it furnishes, in its progress and termination, full and satisfactory proof of the real state of public opinion and feelings in Connecticut respecting all seminaries of learning superior to common schools, a state of public sentiment, to which, as we understand, is to be attributed, what appears to us, as we shall soon

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

have occasion more fully to remark, the somewhat partial and injudicious appropriation of the school fund. Individuals in that state have lamented this alienation of the public mind from all legislative aid to literature and science, as injurious to the best interests of the community; but other individuals, more numerous and more active, have ever found their advantage in fomenting the popular delusion, and, if we are correctly informed, there are few states in the union, where the vulgar prejudice is more current, that all learning not taught in a common school, is for the benefit of the rich and the few, to the prejudice, perhaps, of the many. This unfounded opinion, refuted as it is by innumerable facts forcing themselves upon the view of the most unobserving, may, indeed, be heard in more states than one, from the mouths of grave legislators, and what is more marvellous still, there are those of them who seem really to believe what they say.

It is not, therefore, surprising, in this state of public sentiment in Connecticut, that whatever funds have been at any time at the disposal of the legislature, have been, with few and inconsiderable exceptions, appropriated to the support of common schools. In the year 1733 the avails of the sale of seven new townships in the western part of the colony, were divided among the towns; the interest to be applied to the support of common schools forever. In the year 1765 certain sums of money due for excise on goods, were divided in the same manner. But what laid the foundation of the Connecticut school fund, was money received for lands belonging to that state in the northeastern part of the present state of Ohio. The sale of these lands was effected in the year 1795 for $1,200,000. Here was an opportunity seldom enjoyed by any people, of providing for every department of education, so that each might afford, in the operation of a regular and well proportioned system, its proper aid and support to the others. The interest of this fund, however, after much debate in the legislature, where several projects of somewhat different kinds were very amply discussed, and after great popular excitement, was finally appropriated to the favorite object, the support of common schools, and so decided has public opinion continued on this subject, that this appropriation, as we observe by an article in the new constitution of Connecticut, is now made imperative on the legislature.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

The amount of the school fund is now considerably greater than in the year 1795, when it was first established. In the report of the commissioner in May 1821, the property of the fund is stated, in its gross amount, at $1,858,074.33. In the opinion of the commissioner, after a liberal allowance for losses which might occur, the capital of the school fund might, at that time, be safely estimated at $1,700,000, which is an advance of $500,000 on the original sum. This increase of the fund is understood to be owing, in no small degree, to the able management and indefatigable exertions of the present commissioner, whose services have commanded approbation where it was least to be expected, and who furnishes an example of the ascendancy of ability and integrity even in times of great party animosity. Of the sums which have been actually divided to schools, we notice in a schedule connected with the report of 1819, that the amount, from March 1799 to March 1819, is stated to be $827,013.13.

The original rule of distribution of the interest of this fund among the several school societies and districts, was the amount of taxable property, according to its estimated value, belonging to each of them. This rule was complained of as unfavorable to the interests of the poor; and much pains were taken to produce the conviction in the legislature and among the people generally, that the large towns received much more than their just proportion of the public money. Accordingly in 1820, a new rule of distribution was adopted, by which the interest of the school fund is now divided among the several school districts, according to the number of children in each, between the ages of four and sixteen, and provision was made for an annual enumeration. This measure was urged with great zeal by the representatives of the small towns. Little opposition was made to it, especially by those who were more particularly the objects of attack. The rule itself did not appear very objectionable, and it was besides manifest to all who had attended to the state of population in Connecticut, and who were at all competent to form an opinion on such a question, that the large towns could be only gainers by the change proposed. This has, accordingly, been the result, in a degree even greater than was anticipated by those who saw the real tendency of the new law. It is true that a new system of taxation was, at

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

that time, under discussion, by which the amount of taxes paid by the large towns would be considerably increased. If the old rule of distribution was retained, the school-money received by those towns would be increased proportionably. This consideration undoubtedly had its due influence; but the sum now received by several of the large towns, respecting which we have more exact information, is considerably greater than they would claim on the ground of the amount of their tax-bills.

As to the mode in which the common schools in Connecticut are managed, the following particulars are all in which our readers can be supposed to take much interest. All the inhabitants living within the limits of ecclesiastical societies incorporated by law, constitute school societies, elect officers, build school houses, establish school districts, appoint a committee of one for each district, whose duty it is, to manage the concerns of the district, and provide an instructer for the school with the assent of the district, and the approbation of the visitors. The visitors are appointed by each school society, whose duty it is to examine instructers, displace such as are incompetent, visit the schools twice, at least, during each season for schooling, and they may require of the master such exercises of the youth as will show their proficiency in learning. No person can keep a school till he has been examined and approved by the visitors.

We have not been able to ascertain with the exactness we could wish, the number of district schools in Connecticut. Dr Trumbull, in the second volume of his history of that state, published in 1818, states the number at fifteen hundred and eighty, 'according to the best collection he had been able to obtain.' He adds, that in some of them, there are a hundred scholars or more, and in others not more than twenty. He supposes, that 'on an average, they will amount to fifty five or fifty six.' From the inquiries we have made, we are satisfied that this statement is not far from the truth.

Our readers no doubt are now prepared to ask, what great advantage has the state of Connecticut derived from its school fund, and how far has this fund contributed to promote the particular object to which it is devoted, the general diffusion of elementary learning?—According to the old laws, as we have already seen, schools were maintained in the several

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

districts; and one school at least was supported through the year in each town containing seventy householders, and six months where the number of householders was less than seventy. By the present system we do not find that there is any obligation on the school societies or districts to support schools any longer, than the public money affords the requisite aliment; and the consequence must be, what we are informed is extensively true, that the continuance of schools is determined by a very obvious and convenient rule. Taxation for schools being infrequent, must be borne with impatience; and if some school societies increase the school money by a tax, the practice is gradually discontinued, and will soon entirely cease. As to time then, we do not find that any thing has been gained by the schools from the operation of the fund. If some schools continue longer, each year, others are brought sooner to a close, the amount of time, through the whole, being not materially varied.

It does not appear from the laws of Connecticut, nor do we learn from such inquiries as we have made, that the qualifications of instructers have been increased, or the branches of instruction multiplied through any influence of the fund. If education in common schools has assumed a higher character within the last thirty years, it is owing rather to the more elevated standard of instruction through the country; and the improvements, probably, are no greater, than they would have been, if the school fund had never existed. The great advantage, then, of the Connecticut school fund, appears, on investigation, to be this,—it relieves the several school societies from taxation, an advantage, no doubt, which is duly appreciated. Admitting, however, that it is a privilege, and we are not disposed to deny it to be such, for an inhabitant of Connecticut to be able to say, that schools formerly paid for by those who enjoyed their advantages, are now supported by a fund, and so cost nothing; would it not be a privilege far greater, to be able to designate the particular improvements, which the school fund has been the means of introducing into the system of school education? Where means so ample and imposing are provided, we look, of course, for some unusual and splendid result. To be informed that a fund which enables a community no larger than Connecticut to expend more than sixty thousand dol-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

lars a year on schools, and which will soon afford ninety or one hundred thousand dollars a year for the same object, produces no visible effect, except in diminishing taxation, and that the whole benefit is limited to the pocket, much as we admire thrift and good management, leaves on our minds, to say the least, a strong feeling of disappointment. A school fund, according to the common rules of judging, ought to profit the schools, as well as their supporters.

We would not be understood to disapprove of legislative aid to common schools, but to aim at having it so regulated as to produce its full and proper effect. If it were possible, we would take from the common schools of Connecticut nothing which they now enjoy, and would merely apply a portion of the additional income, which will soon be realized, to the encouragement of the higher branches of education. Nothing which could be done would, more directly than this, benefit the common schools themselves. Let a superior school, intermediate between the common schools and the university, be maintained in each county of the state, where all of those, who aspire to teach in common schools, may be themselves thoroughly instructed. Such a measure would give new vigor to the whole system of education. The board of visitors, which now decides on the qualifications of instructers, must be, in most instances, a very imperfect check on the intrusion of ignorance. The teachers, it is understood, have now very seldom any other preparation, than they receive in the very school, where they afterwards instruct, or in the school of some neighboring district, where the advantages for improvement are no better. If this, however, cannot be done, and the whole income of the school fund must be appropriated directly to common schools, we see no reason why teachers in these schools should not be obliged to qualify themselves for their employment, in such higher schools or academies as now exist.

There is, indeed, in the present law of Connecticut respecting schools, a provision, which might seem at first view to answer, in part, the end proposed. The provision is to this effect: that any school society shall have liberty, by a vote of two thirds of the inhabitants present, to institute a school of a higher order, to instruct youth in English grammar, composition, geography, and the learned languages; pupils to be admitted by the visitors, and such school to have its proportion of the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

public money. But this law, as appears on the face of it, must be wholly inoperative. We have, indeed, heard, that in one town a vote of two thirds of the inhabitants was obtained for the institution of such a school; and the same thing may have happened in a few other towns, but cannot learn, that there is at present in Connecticut a single school instituted in the manner contemplated by this law. The law stands as evidence, that correct views of what is really needed are entertained by a portion of the legislature, but from the inadequacy of its provisions, it is evidence no less striking of the actual state of public opinion.

In looking back upon the statements we have thus presented to our readers, one or two remarks are forced upon us. The first regards the noble testimony borne to the characters of the Fathers of Connecticut, by their laws for the support of schools. To feel the strength of this testimony, we have but to compare their condition with these their efforts; to see them, a handful of men, scattered in a few hamlets through the native wilderness, exposed to the most harassing of public dangers, the daily and nightly dread of a savage foe; and yet enacting laws, which should send the grand jury twice a year into every family to see that its children, aye, its apprentices and servants, 'could read the English tongue.' These are the men, to whom our brethren beyond the sea courteously allude, when they say, that 'the Adam and Eve of America came from Newgate.'—How does their conduct and policy contrast with that of the richest and most powerful nation of the present day! What an apparition would it not be at the English Assizes—a true bill found by the grand jury against the proprietor of a cotton factory in Manchester, for that he had neglected to afford his apprentices 'at least so much, as should enable them to read the scriptures and other good and profitable printed books in the English tongue.' Such a bill would transform even Mr Brougham into *Amicus Curiæ;* and do more to promote the education of the commonalty of England, than all the Bells and Lancasters have done, and all their monitors.

We cannot but observe, also, on the extraordinary perversity of opinion, by no means confined to Connecticut, that establishments for the higher branches of education are undeserving of public patronage, as being exclusively for the benefit of the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

rich. This same opinion has been urged in Virginia, and nobly and not unsuccessfully combatted by the distinguished friends and patrons of her university. The same opinion has prompted some measures, which have been brought forward in the legislature of Massachusetts, for the two last years, to the shame of their agitators. It is a gross appeal from the common sense to the avarice of men. Public patronage of academies and colleges for higher education is precisely a tax on the rich, for the benefit of the poor. The rich, it is true, send their children to them; but if there were no colleges at home, they would send their sons abroad. Look at the states in America, where schools and colleges do not flourish, and what is the relative effect on the two classes of society? The rich pay more, it is true, than they otherwise would pay, but they support private teachers and family tutors, for the elementary education of their children, and send their sons to Princeton, New Haven, Cambridge, and to Europe. To the rich man it is of comparatively little consequence, whether the state government, under which he lives, be willing or not to endow institutions where his sons can be educated. He can send them where a wiser policy prevails; and when they come back, they will possess more exclusively that power and influence in society, which superior education confers. The poor man, on the other hand, wants a college near at hand, in his own state, where a considerable part of the requisite supplies can be furnished from his frugal home. He has no means to purchase bills of exchange on distant cities. He cannot add the costs of travelling and the expenses of distant maintenance to the necessary charges of academical education. If the state will provide him a college where he can send his sons, he will do it. He will dispense with their personal services—no small sacrifice in a country like this—he will strain his narrow means to furnish the barely essential; but he can do no more. And will any one say, that when the government looks round upon its constituents, sees the rich alone able to get an education, while the poor are deprived of this inestimable privilege; and to remedy this great evil, lays a general tax for an academy or college for the benefit of those, who must otherwise want the means of liberal education altogether, will any one say, that this is exclusively for the benefit of the rich? It is a malignant absurdity. *Exclusively* beneficial it is certainly and

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ought to be to no one. But eminently and chiefly beneficial it is to the poor. The rich can do well enough without it. The poor must have it, or nothing. This alone enables the poor to bring their talents and industry into the market, and thus rise, by dint of merit, to those trusts and to that influence, which otherwise will fall exclusively into the hands of the rich. Hitherto, by the blessing of Providence, the sons of the poor have been enabled to do this. The great men of America have been mostly nursed in an honorable poverty. The pious and faithful ministers, the upright magistrates, the solid professional characters, the intelligent statesmen, and the enterprising merchants, by which America, from such poor beginnings, has been raised to such a height of prosperity, have been mostly the children of those, who labored with their own hands. There has been, till the last generation, little or no wealth in the country, and the distinction of rich and poor has been nearly nominal. With the growth of riches, this distinction will become important. The leisure commanded by wealth will more and more give persons of moderate capacity the advantage in the competition for the honors of society. At this moment, then, of all others, to cry out against the endowment of places of education, as a tax on the poor, in favor of the rich, is to betray the interests of the poor; and to play the game of the rich under the pretence of abating their immunities.

The Public Latin School in Boston affords so clear an example of the justice of our remarks, that we cannot but appeal to it. We have no hesitation in pronouncing that school equal to any school or academy, public or private, within our knowledge, in the United States. The specimens of proficiency given by its pupils, and laid before the public in the Prize Book, are certainly beyond any thing in this way, which has been attempted in our country, and compare honorably with the exhibitions of the learned schools of Europe. This school in Boston is free. It has been raised to its present excellence, and is supported by the city, at an expense beyond that of some of our American colleges; and the children of the poorer citizens find equal admission with those of the richer, and of course actually compose the majority of the pupils. The expense naturally falls most on those, who pay most of the taxes, that is, on the rich. Thus for an exceedingly small increase of his tax, the poor man can send his son to one of the very

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

best schools in the United States. For perhaps fifty cents' annual addition to his tax-bill, he procures his child those means of education, which could not be had at a private academy under two or three hundred dollars. In this way every small trader and mechanic in Boston, at an expense wholly nominal, is enabled to give his children that education, which before was within the reach of independent fortunes alone. The case is precisely the same with the patronage of colleges.

Finally, we cannot but express our surprize, that the intelligent citizens of Connecticut should have given such just ground to the reproach of neglecting the interests of the College at New Haven. One would have thought that, with such ample means in their hands, the patronage of Yale College would have been the favorite policy of the state. Nothing in Connecticut can, of course, be so honorable to it as this institution. In no way can the citizens of Connecticut expect to exercise so considerable an influence on our common country, as through the medium of a literary establishment of commanding respectability, which gathers some of the most promising of the American youth into her chief city, to receive the most important part of their education, under the influence of her laws, manners, and character. To appeal, moreover, to a feeling which has perhaps had too great influence over the legislatures who have successively withheld the public patronage from Yale, we would add, that on the simple footing of pecuniary account, the state is much indebted to the college. The latter brings annually into circulation in Connecticut many thousands of dollars, and has done so for a long course of years. It lays no small part of the country under contribution, to increase the wealth of Connecticut; and it were but common justice in the state, to return into the funds of the college a small portion of the means, which the college gathers for the state. One can scarcely look on with patience and behold a fund of $1,700,000 exhausted in bounties to encourage the people to have bad schools, while one of the most respectable and useful colleges in the country is allowed to go a begging.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ART. XXV.—*Friedrich von Schiller's Leben, aus theils gedruckten, theils ungedruckten Nachrichten, nebst gedrängter Uebersicht seiner poetischen Werke. Herausgegeben von Heinrich Doering.—The Life of Frederic von Schiller; compiled in part from materials before unpublished; with a concise review of his poems. By Henry Doering.* Weimar, 1822.

THERE are few works in the English language more interesting than Johnson's Lives of the Poets; and in general a well written account of a great poet is nearly as delightful to read as his works. Good poetry is so rare and exquisite a product of the mind, that the few favored mortals, who are capable of affording it, have been in all ages and nations (as is well observed by the celebrated writer just mentioned) invested by public opinion with some of the attributes we commonly connect with the notion of divinity; and the accounts of their lives and writings have been always studied with an interest resembling that, with which we read the history of the incarnation and miracles of superior beings. Good biography, as it is nearly as agreeable, is also perhaps quite as rare, as good poetry; and many a bard, after bestowing immortality upon crowds of patriots and heroes, has fallen short of his own fame with after ages, for want of a life. As the glory of the brave perishes, unless embalmed with the 'tears immortal' of some divine poet; so the memory of the poet himself, who 'saved others' names, but left his own unsung,' if it is not seasonably bottled up in spirit by some careful biographer, fades and dies away; and finally two or three thousand years after, there comes along a great German critic, and flatly denies in the face of his works, that any such person ever existed. Hence we have always looked upon it as a singular dispensation of Providence in favor of the fraternity of the British poets, that a writer, so well qualified in almost every respect as Dr Johnson, should have been raised up and strengthened to undertake the task of doing them justice *en masse;* securing them all from forgetfulness, and displaying them together, like a fine collection of pictures adorned with the golden framing of his own rich and sonorous prose, for the lasting admiration and delight of posterity. If bards and biographers, as may well be presumed, associate together in the flowery fields of Elysium, where we are told all good writers are admitted, it is easy to conceive

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

that the shade of the learned Doctor must enjoy—to use a diplomatic phrase—the most distinguished consideration with the whole company of British poets, whose lives he has recorded. Unfortunately few biographers can be advantageously compared with this great writer; and we regret to say, that the author now under review is far from forming an exception to this remark. It must be allowed, however, that his work, if it has no great merit, is nevertheless respectable in its way, makes but slight pretensions, has few glaring faults, and especially is brief, the best possible quality in an indifferent book. It consists of a plain recital of the principal facts in the life of Schiller, accompanied with critical remarks on his poems; the latter division of the work being rather inferior in value to the former. As the facts mentioned in the narrative are not perhaps very generally known to the public, we shall offer, in the present article, a summary of the most important, interspersed with such observations as may be supplied by Mr Doering, or naturally suggested by the subject.

Frederic Schiller was born at Marbach, a little town in Würtemberg, on the tenth of November 1759. His father, John Caspar, was bred a surgeon, and served in that capacity with a regiment of Bavarian hussars in the war of the Austrian succession. At the close of this war he returned to Würtemberg, and was there placed as adjutant and ensign in the Prince Louis regiment. With these characters he made the campaigns of the seven years' war, relieving at times the sufferings of his comrades by surgical aid, and occasionally supplying their spiritual wants by a sermon or a psalm. He seems indeed to have been a person of versatile, if not preeminent genius. After the peace of 1763, he retired from the army with the rank of captain, and was employed by the duke of Würtemberg to superintend one of his estates. In this charge he acquitted himself with great success; and he even acquired such skill in agriculture, that he afterwards published a book upon the subject, which obtained the honors of a second edition. The mother of Schiller was the daughter of a baker of Rodweis, and is represented as a person of a kind and affectionate character, and of some poetical taste.

Schiller was not remarked at school as a promising boy. His genius seems to have been first excited by the opportunity of frequenting the theatre, which presented itself to him when

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

he was about eight years old, and he then made some attempts at poetry, and began already to plan tragedies. He continued, however, several years longer at the public school of Ludwigsburg, employed in classical and scientific studies, but without obtaining much distinction in either. His inclination at this period of life was for the profession of divinity, and the wishes of his parents coincided in this respect with his own. It happened, however, that the duke of Würtemberg was instituting at this time a military school at Stuttgard; and having heard a good account of young Schiller, had made up his mind to place him there as a student. His parents objected, that it was not a suitable school for theological studies; but the duke replied, that he could easily adopt a different profession, and the parents thought it prudent to conform to his wishes. Accordingly, the future poet was admitted at the age of fourteen into this institution, where probably every thing was taught except theology, as Schiller had decided for the profession of law.

The studies connected with this profession soon became odious to him, and he determined to abandon it and apply to medicine. In reality, the passion for poetry had already taken complete possession of his mind, and any employment that did not tend to gratify it appeared tasteless and irksome. About the time that he entered the school, he wrote an epic poem, entitled Moses, and a tragedy upon the history of Cosmo de' Medici. These immature productions were inspired by the popularity of Klopstock and Lessing. The smaller pieces that he wrote at this period gave, we are told, but slight indications of his future merit. Meantime, he employed his leisure in literary studies. He was induced, by hearing a passage quoted from Shakspeare in a public lecture, to attempt the reading of him; but he took very little pleasure in it, his taste not being sufficiently mature to enjoy the sublime and beautiful display of true nature exhibited in the works of our great dramatist. At a riper age he had learned to read him with different feelings, and his remarks upon the subject, in a letter written at that time, are somewhat curious:

'When early in life I first became acquainted with Shakspeare,' he observes, 'I was repelled by the want of sentiment, which permitted him to introduce passages of low mirth in scenes of the deepest tenderness; to degrade the most pathetic parts of Ham-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

let, King Lear, and Macbeth, by bringing in clowns and grave-diggers; to dilate with apparent pleasure on offensive subjects, and then to hurry on relentlessly where the heart would delight to have had him dwell. I had studied and respected him in short for many years, before I began to read him with a true relish. I was not capable at that time of enjoying nature at the first hand.'

In these remarks Schiller has certainly pointed out a real defect in the manner of Shakspeare; but it is doubtful whether he has given the true reason, why he did not at first take pleasure in reading him. We apprehend in fact, that it is the merit, and not the faults, whatever they may be, of Shakspeare, which makes his writings less agreeable to an immature taste, than many others of far inferior value. The taste of childhood is indifferent to real beauty; and when a sensible mind first catches a glimpse of the action of life, it is dazzled and bewildered with a thousand illusions, and wholly unable to estimate with certainty the value of appearances in art or nature. To a lad of fifteen a stage-player is a greater hero than Washington, or even Bonaparte; Amadis de Gaul a much more interesting work than Don Quixote; and the Arabian Tales the highest effort of the human understanding. The mass of mankind, whose real life lies without the sphere of elevated thoughts and actions, and who have no time to study, never correct their false notions, nor acquire just ones. If they assemble in crowds to see a representation of Cato, it is not from a love of noble sentiment, expressed in lofty language; but they go, as Pope says, to see the 'bag-wig, flowered gown, and elbow-chair.' As the influence of the world has unfortunately a natural tendency to chill the heart, as well as to inform the mind, a great proportion of the smaller number of persons, whose habits and studies are of a higher description, lose in feeling what they gain in judgment. Hence arises the rarity of the power of producing fine imitations of nature, and of valuing them when produced by others, or, in other words, of genius and taste, which are only different operations of the same agents, and which demand the union of experience and sensibility.

The genius of Schiller soon reached the highest point of vigor, if not of maturity, that it ever attained. The Robbers, the most powerful, if not the best of his productions, was written at about the age of eighteen, while he was still at the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

academy in Stuttgard. He had occasion at this time to compose a professional essay on the connexion between our physical and intellectual natures, and he published in an appendix some passages from the Robbers, then unfinished, as translations from a pretended English play, designed to illustrate the work. In 1781 the tragedy was first published; and the next year, was represented with great success at the theatre in Manheim. It became immediately, and still continues one of the most attractive theatrical exhibitions, that are presented to the German public. Imitations of it in the French and English languages have met with no great success, being made indeed by inferior hands. As the publication of this tragedy was the most important event in the life of Schiller, it may not be foreign to our purpose to add a few remarks upon its character, with a view of ascertaining its principal merits and defects.

The value of the Robbers lies almost wholly in the vigor and richness of the style. It is impossible not to recognize in it the work of a most powerful mind pouring out its inspirations with the careless prodigality of conscious wealth. The characters are well drawn, admitting the justice of the conception, and produce a strong effect. The language is nervous and energetic, sometimes perhaps beyond the limit of good taste; but even in its faults of this sort we perceive at once the excess of real force, and not the counterfeit vigor of ambitious weakness. The extraordinary length of the tragedy, which is nevertheless fresh and overflowing with matter in every scene, evinces the richness of the author's resources. The manner has also the merit of entire originality. There is no painful effort to appropriate the beauties of former writers. Except the mere form of being written in dialogue, and divided into acts, the work has no resemblance whatever to any that went before it. Conscious of his power, the author disdained to be indebted to his predecessors, and drew fearlessly from the abundance of his own wealth. This is the true sign of real genius, and the Robbers, with all its faults, must be acknowledged by every correct judge as a work of this description.

The great defect of this play, on the other hand, is that the principal character is a conception wholly false and unnatural. The hero is a person endowed with the noblest qualities of

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

mind and heart. He is susceptible and indeed actually under the influence of the most refined and delicate affections. To represent such a person, as hurried on by passion into the commission of some high crime, would be natural enough; but instead of this, he is described as living for a series of years, in the constant practice of highway robbery and murder. Few judicious persons would probably hesitate to pronounce such a character impossible in nature, and as much the fiction of a wild imagination, as the ogre with an elephant's head, in the Arabian Nights, or the beautiful sea-maid with a fish's tail; for whose ugly counterfeit, our thrifty townsman, Capt. Edes, lately paid so dear at Batavia. If supposed to be possible, it is still a possible monster. To represent such a being, as acting a part with ordinary men and women in the business of life, is an error of the same sort, as if an artist, in a picture of the battle of Waterloo, should place the duke of Wellington or Bonaparte astride upon a centaur. The poet of the Pleasures of Hope tells us indeed to

> learn how generous worth sublimes
> The robber Moor, and pleads for all his crimes.

But this passage only shows how easily a youthful mind lends itself to any fiction that appears in a plausible dress; and such a heresy, though very excusable in a bard who had not then passed his teens, has not, we trust, been encouraged by this distinguished author in the maturer judgments of his lectures. How far 'generous worth' would 'sublime' the practice of highway robbery, if they could be supposed to exist together, is a question which we need not discuss; as we know that the gentlemen, who exercise this profession, are unacquainted with any worth but that of a full purse, or any generosity but that of emptying it in low debauchery, as soon as possible. We shall not, of course, be understood to mean that a mixture of virtue and vice, in the same character, is unnatural. We only affirm that the virtues and vices, that are combined in fiction, should be such as consort with each other in real life. To represent the most contradictory moral qualities as existing together, each in its extreme, is as much an act of mere wantonness, as it would be to describe an individual as laboring in the last stages of a loathsome disease, and exhibiting at the same time all the outward forms and color of perfect health.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

A fault of this description in a work of art, considered merely as such, is no otherwise injurious than as it diminishes or destroys the effect of the piece, and tends at the same time to corrupt the taste of the public. But works of art have also a powerful moral influence; and in this point of view, the consequences of exhibiting false and unnatural images, in an attractive dress, are extremely important. Moral rules are generalisations of the relations established by nature between individual beings; and virtue consists in the regulation of our conduct, agreeably to these relations. We have also a capacity of deriving pleasure from the contemplation of these relations and the objects between which they exist; and good taste consists in possessing this faculty uncorrupted and in a high degree. Hence virtue may be described as good taste in action; and every work of art, that sins against the rules of taste, saps at the same time, in proportion to the power with which it is executed, the foundations of good conduct. Some errors of this kind are more injurious than others, and the most extravagant are the least dangerous, because the least likely to impose upon the feelings. The attempt in the play we are considering, to dress up highway robbery in the garb of heroism and sentiment, seems in the abstract too absurd to produce any practical mischief. But unfortunately there is no fiction that does not assume an appearance of plausibility under the pen of a great poet; and we are told, that soon after the first publication of the Robbers, a number of respectable young men in Germany, were carried away by the example of the hero to such an extent, that they actually embraced his profession. Supposing this fact (which however has been repeatedly stated) to be doubtful, it is certain that in reading the play we sympathize with the Robber's sufferings instead of laughing at the absurdity of his character; and we have seen above, the sweetest and purest poet of the day pronounce the personage to be sublime. Indeed the combination of qualities, which forms the basis of the character of Moor, is so far from offending the public taste by its incongruousness, that it not only met with astonishing success in the hands of Schiller, but has been produced again, with equal effect in our own time, by lord Byron. His Giaours, Alps, and Conrads, are all heroic and sentimental highwaymen, a little less monstrous

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

than Charles Moor, because the scene of their exploits is laid in less civilized countries. Such delineations are dangerous and immoral, not precisely from the probability that they will bring many persons to the state prison or the gallows, but because they confound all our notions and feelings in regard to moral distinctions, vitiate the fine natural sense of real worth and beauty, and lay the heart open without a guard to such temptations as most easily beset it. There are, however, as we have intimated above, errors in taste of a similar kind, that are more pernicious, because they are less extravagant. But it is time to return from these general views to the subject immediately before us.

The Robbers was commenced, as we have observed above, while Schiller was a pupil at the military school; but before it was published he had been appointed surgeon to a regiment in the duke of Würtemberg's service. The director of the theatre at Manheim, having made arrangements for bringing out his play, the author, as may easily be supposed, was anxious to assist at the representation, and applied for leave of absence from his regiment for that purpose. This favor was refused; but the poet's zeal was not so easily damped. He went off privately to Manheim without permission, assisted with great delight at the representation of his play, and as soon as he returned, was put under arrest for a fortnight. Not long after, the duke positively prohibited him from writing any thing except upon medical subjects. It is stated by the biographer, that his highness, who probably considered himself the best judge of poetry in his dominions, had previously sent for Schiller for the purpose of pointing out to him in a fatherly way the faults in his tragedy, and directed him not to publish any thing in future without shewing it to him, and taking his advice. The bard's hesitation in agreeing to this proposal is supposed to have been the immediate cause of the prohibition just mentioned. The restraints that were imposed upon him by the duties of his station and the meddling interference of the duke soon became intolerable to Schiller, and he determined to quit the service and the country. He did not venture however, to apply for permission to resign his place in a regular way, thinking probably, that it would not only be refused, but that means would be taken to prevent him from executing his intentions. For fear of this, he determined upon a bolder step,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

and took his departure privately without leave. This proceeding, which in technical language amounted to *desertion*, might have been productive of serious consequences. It appears, however, that the government made no attempt to recover the fugitive; and when Schiller, several years afterwards, at the height of his reputation, ventured to return for a short time to Würtemberg to see his family, the duke not only did not order him to be shot, as he probably might have done by the letter of the law, but graciously condescended to take no notice whatever of his presence in the country.

Upon leaving Würtemberg, Schiller took refuge under a feigned name at the house of a friend, where he continued his poetical labors, and employed himself in writing the tragedies of the Conspiracy of Fiesco and Cabal and Love. After living in this way about a year, he repaired to Manheim, at the invitation of baron Dalberg, then and for many years afterwards director of the theatre at that place. Dalberg was a younger member of one of the wealthiest and most distinguished houses in Germany, which had lately derived an additional illustration from the liberal sentiments and literary taste and talent of its principal branches. His brother, the head of the family, was at that time Elector of Mentz, and became afterwards, in the course of the late political revolutions, prince primate of the Confederation of the Rhine. Another brother distinguished himself as one of the high functionaries of the late French empire, under the title of duke of Dalberg, and is now a peer of France. The three brothers were all remarkable for their love of letters and literary men; and indeed had all adventured themselves with great success in the field of authorship. The elector published at a very early age a work, entitled Reflections on the Universe, which went through ten editions before the author was twenty-three years old. The baron's taste was for the drama, and he wrote himself several pieces for the theatre, which he directed. It was he who had assisted Schiller in bringing out the Robbers; and he now received its author at Manheim with great regard and kindness. The two new tragedies were acted the next year with much success. During his residence at this place, which lasted about three years, he appears to have written but little, excepting a few small poems and a periodical work, entitled Thalia, which was published at long intervals. He was principally employed in

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

studying the most distinguished dramatists of other countries, and in meditating plans for new books of his own. He also assisted baron Dalberg in the management of the theatre.

It will not be necessary for our present purpose to examine in detail the two tragedies just mentioned, or those which were afterwards published. We were led to notice more particularly the prominent merits and defects of the Robbers, because it forms in both these points a class by itself in the writings of its author; while the other tragedies are all marked by the same general characteristics, and form together a second class, entirely dissimilar in all respects from the first. The two that are mentioned above, and which were written next after the Robbers, resemble it more nearly, than the subsequent productions, and show the transition, by which the poet gradually passed from one manner to another. Don Carlos, which followed Cabal and Love, exhibits the second manner as strongly as perhaps any other of the plays; and all that succeeded it are distinguished by the same general features. Having already attempted to give some idea of the Robbers, we shall here add a few remarks upon the style of plan and execution, which was adopted by Schiller in his riper productions.

The character of the Robbers was probably determined in a great degree by the circumstances of the author's position at the time when he wrote. It is the production of a powerful mind, still in an immature state, but excited to a high and unnatural degree by a sense of supposed injustice and oppression. The love of poetry and letters was the dominant feeling with Schiller; and this passion was thwarted by the discipline of the military school. The strictness of the rules, to which he was subject, however wholesome for general purposes, appeared to the youthful bard a relentless and stupid system of tyranny, because it prohibited him from attaching himself to pursuits, which he considered not only as perfectly honorable, but in the highest degree ennobling and generous. This situation accounts at once for the beauties and the faults of the author's first play. A sense of the injustice, under which he supposed himself to be laboring, vitiated his view of the general operation of society. His soul rose up in rebellion against all existing institutions. The world seemed to him like a vast prison house, where base and sordid spirits are clothed with power, and permitted to trample with impunity upon the rights

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

of the wise and good. The struggles between these parties make up the action of life. Hence the highwayman, who comes out more fearlessly and publicly in opposition to the existing system, than any other person, is the boldest and most distinguished champion of the right side, and naturally presented himself to the poet's mind, as the proper hero of a play intended to depict this gloomy scene. The villain of the play as naturally took the form of the lord of the manor, a noble and wealthy proprietor, who is represented as exercising all manner of oppression, and as being hated and despised by every body; while his brother, the highwayman, whose habitual occupation is the burning of houses and the cutting of purses and throats, is described as worthy of universal love and admiration, and as suffering a sort of martyrdom in the best of causes.

With Schiller this view of society was probably a generalization of his own individual experience; and the poem which he has founded upon it is accordingly executed with all the force and fire of true feeling. These qualities constitute the merit of the work, and ensured its success. The reputation and general favor which the author obtained from it contributed, in connexion with the natural progress of age and experience, to change his ideas, and to reconcile him with existing institutions. Flattered and caressed by the wealthy and the noble, he was soon satisfied, that merit of all kinds might be found in the highest ranks of society; and that the present system has its bright as well as its dark side. We find accordingly in the later plays few if any traces of the philosophical views, that give a character to the Robbers. The poet generally confines himself to the exposition in a dramatic form of known historical facts, and chooses his heroes in the same rank of social life, which has generally been resorted to for this purpose by his predecessors. His change of circumstances appears also to have operated, but in a less favorable way, upon the style of the later plays. In the Robbers the vigor and warmth of the language is perhaps excessive; in the others the fault is of a different kind. The style is pure and elegant, and even far from being positively languid; but, if we are not mistaken, it is somewhat less natural and nervous, than might be wished. These poems are rather dramatic dialogues than tragedies. They resemble in manner the English tragedians of the last century, much more nearly than Shakspeare.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

In fact, though the names of Schiller and Shakspeare are often cited together, the two writers have hardly any points of resemblance. They belong to two different periods in the progress of poetry. Shakspeare has all the exuberant fulness, the fresh and joyous flow of thought and feeling, that appertain to an early literary age; and the fetters of general principles and conventional rules hang about him very loosely. At the slightest temptation he breaks through them with perfect *nonchalance*, and shakes them off, 'like dew-drops from a lion's mane.' Nay, he often, in the wantonness of power, seems to take delight in setting all forms at defiance, and bringing into one picture the most incongruous images in art and nature, as in the last act of Hamlet. In Schiller, on the contrary, we recognize the established empire of taste, against which genius itself in a polished age does not venture to rebel. The form predominates over the substance. There is no playing with conventional rules—no mixture of prose and verse, of tragedy and comedy in the same scene—no puns in the midst of pathos, or instructions to stage-players given by a tragic hero at the height of his distress. The execution is pure, chaste, and polished, and even in the Robbers only errs by a small excess in degree. Thus far all is well; but then we miss at the same time the fresh impression of nature, and the careless ease and lightheartedness of an untamed fancy. The language is studied and elaborate, as well as elegant, and the effect upon the whole is much less delightful. Whether it be possible for any talent, however high, to produce the same impression of power, and the same degree of pleasure, with a strict observance of all the formal rules of taste, that result from witnessing the wild and graceful sports of a genius that rises above them, is perhaps a question. The talent of Schiller, great as it was, has certainly not been sufficient for this object.

The difference between these two poets is as great in the substance, as in the form of their works; and in this respect, also, each of them wears the stamp of the age in which he lived. Shakspeare gives us the simple and true impression of nature, as observed and felt by himself. In Schiller we generally get it at second hand, through the medium of books, and deduced from vague generalities. Shakspeare, too, is rich in the most profound and curious general observations upon every branch of moral science; but with him they seem to be instinctive

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

conclusions of his own acute sense, while in Schiller, on the contrary, we trace them at once to be the common fund of the philosophical knowledge of his time; and are rather tempted to regard even his individual characters as personifications of acknowledged general truths. In making these remarks, we are far from wishing to undervalue the merit of Schiller, which is sufficiently attested by his prodigious and continued success. Indeed the general characteristics, which we have just noticed, belong to him in common with the most distinguished dramatic poets of ancient and modern times. The masters of the Greek and French tragedy are, like him, artificial and discursive, as well as pure and elegant. The manner of Alfieri and Metastasio partakes of the same qualities; and the best English tragedies of the last century are feebler examples of this model. We are inclined to think, indeed, that Schiller has upon the whole brought this form of tragedy to a higher degree of perfection, than any modern writer, with the exception, perhaps, of Corneille and Racine. We only mean to insist, that his merits and defects are entirely different from those of Shakspeare, with whom he is frequently classed by superficial critics, who also describe them both as belonging to the *romantic* school of poetry. It is almost needless to remark, that there is not a writer in the whole compass of literature less romantic than Shakspeare; and it is rather difficult to conjecture for what reason he has been classed with Schiller, unless it be that they both neglect at pleasure the formal unities of time and place—a circumstance which, however unimportant, seems to be regarded by some critics as the real touchstone of merit and only true ground of distinctions among dramatic writers.

We are not made acquainted with the reasons that induced Schiller to leave Manheim, where he seems to have been pleasantly situated, and very much respected. He afterwards resided successively for short periods at Leipsic, Dresden, and some other places. His poetical reputation procured him every where a very favorable reception; and he had already become an object of curiosity to strangers; some of whom, however, were partially scandalized at the simplicity of his appearance and manners, having formed an idea that the author of the Robbers ought to figure, at the very least, in mustachios and hussar boots. About this time he produced the tragedy of Don Carlos, one of the most valuable of his plays,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

and the one which marked decisively the adoption of his second manner. He also employed himself a good deal in historical studies, and published the first volume of a History of the Revolution of the Netherlands, a work which he never completed. The specimen, which appeared, was, however, greatly admired by the public, and pointed out its author as a suitable person to succeed the celebrated Eichhorn, who had just resigned the professorship of history in the university of Jena. The friends of Schiller, particularly the poet Gœthe, made interest in his favor, and he obtained the place.

Schiller had made the acquaintance of Gœthe a short time before, when the latter was upon his return from his journey into Italy. He had formed the highest idea of his character and talents; and seems upon his first introduction to have been somewhat dissatisfied with the deportment of his brother poet, who was discoursing with great life and fluency upon the objects he had lately seen, and seemed much too gay and good-humored for the author of the Sorrows of Werther. In a letter written at this time, Schiller expresses his discontent as follows:

'The high idea, that I had formed of the character of Gœthe, has not been diminished by our interview; but I doubt whether we ever become very intimate with each other. He has outlived many of the illusions, to which I now am most sensible. Indeed our intellectual constitutions appear to be originally different; his world is not mine; our modes of thinking are radically at variance. It may be rash, however, to draw this conclusion from a single conversation. Time will show the truth.'

In fact, the kindness and friendly deportment of Gœthe towards the disappointed bard induced the latter very soon to change his opinion. Gœthe, who was in high favor at the court of Weimar, presented Schiller to the grand duchess. Her highness gave him a very gracious reception, and Schiller, in the letter which describes it, seems already half disposed to forgive the gaiety of his celebrated friend:

'Who was it, think you,' says he to his correspondent, 'that procured me an introduction to the duchess? No other than Gœthe. You shake your head significantly at this; and well you may. I have learned, however, not to judge in future of characters hastily and from preconceived notions. Gœthe is really a good man. He has faults; but he has been led into them by others. They do not belong to his natural character.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

The meaning of the last phrase seems to be, that the author of the Sorrows was originally as melancholy as a gentleman ought to be, but that flattery and success had corrupted him into his present good humor. The assistance rendered by Gœthe in the affair of the professorship confirmed Schiller in his good opinion, and they continued ever after fast and intimate friends. In the year 1790, soon after his establishment at Jena, Schiller espoused the Fräulein von Lengefeld, and the union appears to have been a very happy one. As an encouragement to matrimony, we add the following extracts from letters written a few months after:

'It is a very different thing,' says the poet, 'even in summer, to live with a kind and loving wife, from what it is to be left all alone to one's self. I now begin to enjoy in reality the beauties of nature. Every thing puts on a poetical aspect, and fills me with inspiration.'—And again:—'What a charming life I now lead. I look about me with *unaffected gaiety*, [*sic?*] and enjoy a continual satisfaction of mind and heart. A beautiful harmony pervades my whole existence. My days pass off without the excitement of passion, and in the midst of a sweet and undisturbed serenity. I look forward to the future with confidence and cheerfulness; and now that I have attained the object of all my wishes, I am astonished myself at my own success. Providence has smoothed all difficulties, and brought me happily to the goal. I hope every thing from the future. In a few years my intellect will reach its full maturity, [he was then thirty-two] and I even flatter myself, that I shall at the same time renew my youth in the constant exercise of warm feelings and an active imagination.'

These pure pleasures and sanguine hopes were unfortunately of short duration. The year after his marriage, the poet was violently attacked with a pulmonary complaint, which greatly diminished the enjoyment of his after life, and which finally brought it to a close. His illness is attributed in part to the injurious influence of the mode, which he had adopted of composition and study. He uniformly devoted the day to society, recreation, or business; and reserved his poetical labors for the night, almost the whole of which was often employed in the cabinet. On these occasions, he kept at his side a cup of strong coffee, or a goblet of Rhenish, and recurred to them at times to recruit his strength. In the silence of night he was often heard by the neighbors declaiming with great energy; and from a house that overlooked his study, he might be seen,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

striding violently up and down the room, and then seating himself to write, or renewing his inspiration from the goblet. In this manner he labored till four or five o'clock in the morning in winter, and till three in summer. He then went to bed, and slept till nine or ten. It is not surprising, that these habits should have destroyed his health at an early age, and finally removed him from the world while his intellect was still in full vigor and activity. We may add here, that his manner of writing was slow and laborious; a fact, which appears at first rather singular, considering the number of hours which he appears to have devoted every day to this purpose. He never wrote rapidly; and on some of his plays he was employed for four or five years in succession. His habits in this respect, like those of other writers, were probably in part the result of circumstances, and did not arise from any original peculiarity of intellect. They were perhaps more fortunate for his ultimate reputation, than others would have been of an opposite kind. Rapidity of composition is not incompatible with a high degree of merit, but is very rarely combined with the substantial richness and the exquisite polish, which alone can give a work a solid and lasting value. Besides, as the worth of poetry, like that of the precious metals and the most esteemed spices, depends in a great degree upon its rarity, the dealers in the article would do well, for their own interest, to limit the quantity of their supplies, even supposing the quality to be the same, for fear of overstocking the market, and permanently injuring the demand.

Schiller appears to have resigned his professorship, or at least to have suspended his attention to its duties, after the attack of illness above mentioned, although the fact is not precisely stated by the biographer, and was thus deprived of his ordinary means of living. The munificence of the duke of Holstein Augustenberg, and some other persons of high rank, obviated any anxiety, that he might have felt upon this head; and enabled him to give himself the temporary repose from labor of every kind, which was necessary to his health. He continued to reside at Jena till 1799, when he removed to Weimar, and fixed his abode there for the rest of his life.

During the time that he passed at Jena his studies had principally taken a historical direction, and one of their fruits was the History of the thirty years' War. This work, in the shape

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

in which it now appears, is little better than a fragment, although the narrative is brought down to the peace of Westphalia. The earlier events of the war are described with fulness and care, and in a very masterly style; but after the death of Gustavus, and the assassination of Wallenstein, the historian seems to lose his interest in the subject, and the events are hurried over with too much rapidity. Had the whole been finished with equal care, the work would have been one of the most valuable of its class to be found in any language; nor can it be read in its present state without extreme pleasure. The subject is happily chosen, and does not yield in interest to that of Thucydides. It may be remarked, however, that the author, by conceiving it more largely, might have given it a much loftier and more philosophical character. The Reformation was the great political action, of which the Thirty Years' war formed the concluding scene; and it is impossible for a historian to do full justice to any part of the long succession of momentous events, to which this name is attached, without giving a complete view of the whole. Treated in this way, the subject is perhaps the best in the whole compass of history. Embracing a period of little more than a century, it is not too vast for a single work; and while it affords the richest variety of incidents it possesses at the same time the charm of complete unity. The action commences with the promulgation of the new religion by the preaching of Luther. The vast commonwealth of Europe, through its several branches, divides itself immediately into two parties, one occupied in resisting and attempting to crush this momentous innovation, the other bent upon giving it an acknowledged and authentic character. The struggles of these parties in the fields of negotiation, and of civil and foreign war, make up the history of Europe for more than a century; and the interest continually increases in intensity, until at length all the powers are involved in a great final contest of thirty years in succession, which ends with the solemn consecration of the new doctrine, as an acknowledged religion at the peace of Westphalia. It is obvious, that the high moral considerations, in which these events had their origin, give them an importance much superior to that of ordinary wars, and occasion an uncommon and very agreeable variety in the characters and incidents to be described. Priests and soldiers, kings and cardinals, monks and ladies occupy the stage by turns, and we

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

are not fatigued with the continual recurrence of similar events, that becomes so monstrous in most histories. In short, the subject unites, perhaps, in the highest possible degree, the materials for political and philosophical discussion and poetical description. When treated in parts, the moral interest in a great measure disappears, and the portion selected can hardly be made to excite more attention, than any merely political event of equal importance. The Reformation must be handled superficially, and still becomes an unwieldy and cumbrous episode, that rather injures than increases the effect. The work of Robertson, who in his Charles V has taken up the commencement of this great action, and that of Schiller, who describes the close, are in this respect obnoxious to the same objection. The subject in its true form and grandeur still remains unattempted; and invites the labor of some powerful and philosophical pen, competent, if any such there be, to do it justice.

Schiller seems to have been more attracted by the poetical capacities of the subject, than by its political and philosophical interest; and after proceeding in his history as far as the death of Wallenstein, he probably relinquished the idea of completing it in the same way, for the purpose of employing the materials he had collected in the form of poetry. He conceived at first the plan of an epic poem, of which Gustavus Adolphus was to have been the hero. In his letters written at this time, he remarks, that

'of all historical subjects, the life of Gustavus Adolphus combines in the highest degree the materials of poetical with those of political and national interest. The history of the Thirty Years' war includes that of the Reformation, as an indispensable episode, and the history of the Reformation has the closest connexion with the principal events in the fortunes of the human race. The poet, therefore, has it in his power to introduce by a just arrangement the whole history of man in a heroic poem, of which the immediate subject should extend from the battle of Leipsic to that of Lützen; and to treat it much more agreeably than he could in any other way.'

This plan, however, he also relinquished, and finally determined to employ his materials in writing a tragedy upon the death of Wallenstein. He seems to have labored this play much more than any of the others, as it was seven years from

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the time he formed the plan of it, till its completion. The effect, however, does not appear to be proportionately great; and the tragedy, although generally regarded as one of the best, and from the nature of the subject peculiarly interesting to a German audience, has no marked superiority over others, that were written in a much shorter time. It is probable, that the state of the author's health at this time prevented him from laboring with his usual assiduity. The subject of Wallenstein is wrought up into three poems. The first part, entitled Wallenstein's Camp, is a short piece in one act, and serves as a prologue to the principal play. It is a sort of comedy, exhibiting a view of the interior of a military encampment, and is executed with great power. The Two Piccolomini is a domestic tragedy, founded on the loves of Wallenstein's daughter and the younger Piccolomini, whose father was at the same time employed by the Imperial government to assassinate their own commander in chief. Wallenstein's Death exhibits the bloody catastrophe, which terminated the projects of this aspiring soldier. The subject is, upon the whole, a good one, though rather deficient in incident; and the character of Wallenstein, with his irresolute ambition, his domestic tenderness, and his hankering after astrology, is highly dramatic.

During the time of Schiller's residence at Jena, he also projected one or two other poems, which were never written. The account of these projects, given by himself in his letters, is curious and amusing. He intended at one time to attempt an epic founded upon some action in the life of the great Frederic.

'The plan of founding an epic poem upon some remarkable action in the life of Frederic,' he observes, 'is highly plausible; nor would the apparent difficulty of treating events so near our own time affright me very much. A heroic poem, written in the eighteenth century, ought to be a very different thing from one that was produced in the infancy of the world; and this is the very reason, that makes me wish to attempt one. It ought to exhibit in a free and unconstrained way the quintessence of our manners, arts, and sciences: just as the Iliad gives us a complete idea of the state of civilization in Greece. I also wish to invent a machinery, for I should make it a point not to deviate a hair's breadth from the strictest formal rules of the poem. This would be the most difficult part with so recent an action passing in a very prosaic age; but then if I can succeed in it, the effect will be so much the

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

greater. I have all sorts of plans upon the subject, but am not yet satisfied with any. In regard to the measure, you will be rather surprised, that I have chosen the *ottava rima;* this is the only kind of verse, except Iambics, that I can abide, and I think that the sublimity and gravity of the matter will appear to great advantage in this easy and simple dress. The sweet and graceful flow of this stanza will be charming in an epic poem. I should wish, that my countrymen might sing it as the Grecian peasants did the Iliad, and the boatmen of Venice the Jerusalem Delivered. I have not yet decided on the particular action, which ought, if possible to be very simple, however numerous may be the episodes. I should however give a view of the whole life of Frederic, and his principal contemporaries. For a work like this, there is no better model, than the Iliad.'

In the following extracts from his letters, he gives an account of another plan, that he had formed, of a poem, which he calls an Idyll; but which, had it been written, could not have had much resemblance to any other production known by that title.

'My Land of Shadows,' he observes, speaking of one of his published poems, 'is merely didactic. Had the subject been treated as poetically, as that of the Elegy, the work would have been, in some sort, a master-piece; and I mean to make this attempt as soon as I have leisure. I intend to write an Idyll in the same way, that I did the Elegy. I am collecting all my poetical powers for this purpose, which is in general to produce without the help of pathos the highest poetical effect. My Land of Shadows contains the rules for this, and I mean that the Idyll shall afford an example. The immediate subject will be the marriage of Hebe and Hercules. It is impossible to go higher than this, because the poet must keep within the circle of humanity; and the scope of the poem will be to exhibit the human nature, rising into the divine. The leading characters would be gods; but Hercules would form a connecting link between them and men, and would give the poem an action. Such an Idyll would be in some respects the exact reverse of the higher comedy, while it would resemble it considerably in form. Both exclude pathos; but comedy treats of real life, while the Idyll dwells wholly in the ideal. If I find this plan impracticable, and become satisfied, that ideal images do not admit of being presented in the form of actual persons, I shall then think, as I have always thought until the plan of this poem occurred to me, that comedy is the highest kind of poem. But only think how delightful it must be to bring out a poetical picture free from any mortal

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

mixture—all light—all freedom—all power—no shadows or shackles of any kind. My head turns when I think of the possibility of realizing this plan. I do not quite despair of it, provided I can once fairly clear my intellect of the rubbish of reality. I shall then summon up all my energies, and set to work, though I exhaust them in the attempt. Ask me no questions. The entire scheme is still undefined, and it will take a great deal of labor and study to ascertain whether it can even be attempted.'

From the time when Schiller removed to Weimar in 1799, until his death, which happened in 1805, he abandoned all other studies, and devoted himself exclusively to poetry, and principally to the drama. During this period he produced in succession the tragedies of Maria Stuart, the Maid of Orleans, the Bride of Messina, and William Tell. He had also commenced another upon the subject of the Russian adventurer, commonly called the False Demetrius, which he left unfinished. All these plays exhibit the full maturity and vigor of the author's powers, and met with complete success at the time of their appearance. The Maid of Orleans is generally considered the most remarkable and attractive.

It would be difficult to find a historical subject better adapted for the purposes of poetry, than the life of this celebrated heroine; and accordingly none perhaps has been attempted by more hands, or treated in a greater variety of forms. Her first appearance on any stage, as far at least as our knowledge extends, is in Shakspeare's Henry VI; and the open injustice, which she met with from the great dramatist, was but too true a prognostic of her future fortunes in the same line, at least for a long period. If the play be really Shakspeare's, which is a matter of doubt, it must have been one of his earlier and immature productions, as it exhibits very little of his superior genius in any part, and certainly none in the scenes where Joan of Arc is introduced. The poet, far from showing any sense of the poetical beauty and grandeur of her extraordinary character, either felt or affected all the vulgar prejudices in regard to it, which might have belonged at the time to the meanest common soldier in the English army; and seems to have taken pleasure in wantonly degrading her to the lowest point of immorality. Nor is it a sufficient reason for this to say, that he puts into the mouth of British officers the language, which they may really be supposed to have uttered, since he

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

represents the heroine, as charging herself with low and sordid vices. This manner of treating a noble character is so foreign to the free and magnanimous spirit of Shakspeare, that we prefer believing the play, at least in this part, to be really by another hand. However this may be, the unhappy heroine was reserved for still severer fortunes. Calumniated by a man of genius, or by one who assumes his name, she was next exposed to the still more tormenting martyrdom of being eulogized by a dunce, having been selected by Chapelain, a now forgotten poet of the age of Louis XIV, as the heroine of one of those compositions in twelve or twenty-four books, which, under the name of epic poems, have in all ages demonstrated the patience of their authors, and exhausted that of every body else. Lastly, as a reward for delivering her country from a foreign enemy, and sacrificing her life in the cause, she was stretched on the rack of satire by the greatest wit that France has ever produced, and ridiculed through twenty books of a licentious poem, as she had been celebrated in twenty-four of another, which, unfortunately was but too serious. After this, however, the fatality, that had hitherto pursued her, relented. It is true, that Mr Southey's attempt to restore her character was not very effectual; but the treatment of the laureate was at least much more tolerable, than that of his predecessors, and the heroine might with propriety employ the old Homeric consolation, that she had suffered worse before. It was finally reserved for a German to do full justice, in the most splendid manner, to this young French woman, and to give her the crown of poetical glory, which she certainly merited, if any achievement could give her a right to it. The indifference of so gallant a nation as the French to the worth of this young and beautiful heroine, is a singular fact, which has also been noticed by some of their own best writers. It seems to have extended to the circumstances of her history and personal situation; and the place of her residence was but little known or regarded until the entry of the allied armies into France in 1814 and 1815. The German officers and soldiers, full of the enthusiasm for her character, inspired by Schiller's tragedy, sought out the village of Domremi, where she was born, and which lay near the road to Paris; and the French authorities, reminded by this occurrence of the interest connected with the birth-place

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

of the Maid of Orleans, have since instituted an annual celebration in her remembrance:

> 'Such honors Ilion to her hero paid,
> And peaceful slept the mighty Hector's shade.'

Notwithstanding the great poetical capability of this subject, it must always be a matter of considerable difficulty for a writer, who undertakes to treat it, to determine in the first instance under what point of view the character of the heroine shall be presented, and indeed what her character really was. Her great and brilliant services to her country are unquestionable; but it would not be easy to ascertain, as a point of history, or even as a probable conjecture, whether she was a machine in the hands of others, a mere enthusiast, or a real heroine, or in what degrees she united these different characters. As a subject for poetry, she must necessarily be drawn as a real heroine, strongly tinctured perhaps with enthusiasm; and this seems to have been in the first instance the intention of Schiller. In this case it would have been somewhat difficult to make her character appear consistent with her education and early habits. For this or some other reason, Schiller, after writing a great part of the play upon this plan, abandoned it altogether, and determined to represent his principal personage as acting under the influence of an immediate inspiration from heaven. The following extracts are given from his letters in regard to this tragedy:

'I had this subject under consideration a year before I began to write, and I gave myself full time for the composition. The Maid of Orleans is indeed a subject quite *unique* in its kind, and may well be a favorite one with modern poets, as Iphigenia was with the Greeks. It has been accordingly attempted by bards without number, real or pretended. In treating her history, I finally concluded to give it the coloring of romance and superstition, that belongs to her age. I had projected three different plans for the composition of this tragedy; and if I had leisure, I would even now execute the two others. I was especially satisfied with the one, in which I intended to exhibit the contrast between the reckless indifference, that prevailed at the luxurious court of the Dauphin, in regard to the British invasion, and the high resolution of the inspired heroine, in a different way from that in which it appears in the piece, as it stands, where I have represented the Dauphin as a weak but amiable prince. I had already finished the four first acts, and it cost me a strong effort

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

to change my system, and substitute a romantic conception of the character of Joan, for the historical one, which I had previously adopted.'

The tragedy, written upon this plan, loses of course the pretension to be a true picture of life, and becomes a mere dramatic poem. It is called by Schiller a *romantic tragedy.* The propriety of this appellation seems to be called in question by the biographer, whose remarks upon the subject are so very curious, and so much in the character of a German writer, that we cannot refrain from extracting them.

'Schiller,' he observes, 'has given to this poem the title of a romantic tragedy, but at that time the meaning of the word *romantic* had not been defined with much precision. According to our present ideas on subjects of taste, it means, as is well known, *an infinite longing after the absolute and infinite, and is thus opposed to the antique, which is the infinite realized in a positive shape.* But the poet does not seem to have had this distinction in view; and indeed upon this definition, the character of romantic is inseparable from all modern works of art, and belongs of course to the other tragedies of Schiller as well as to this.'

If any thing could be conceived more amusing than this definition of the term romantic, it would be the perfect simplicity and sincerity, with which the biographer presents it as the one now generally received by the learned. It would be impossible by any analysis to make such language appear more absurd, than it must to every judicious reader at the first glance. We have quoted it principally as a curiosity, and as a specimen of a style of writing very common in German, though almost unknown to the other modern languages. We have hardly any examples of it in English, with the exception, perhaps, of Mr Coleridge's Literary Life and Friend, where the amateurs of this manner will find a choice treat. Mrs Malaprop, in the Rivals, and some of the clown's replies to sir Andrew Aguecheek, in the Twelfth Night, are much in the same way. As to the question in hand, we conceive that Schiller was perfectly right in applying the term *romantic* to his tragedy of the Maid of Orleans. The word, as is well known, is derived from the common patronymic *Roman,* which was used, of course, by the Romans to designate their own language, and was retained for this purpose in France, after the Latin language had assumed the corrupt form of the earlier

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

French. It probably designated at first all compositions written in that language; but was afterwards appropriated exclusively to fictitious narratives in prose, in which sense it is still employed in French and English. *Romantic* means, therefore, etymologically, nothing more than *fictitious*, in distinction from *historical;* but as novels and romances commonly depart as much from the truth of nature in their execution, as they do from that of history in their plan, the term has been much used of late in the former sense, as well as in the latter. In giving his tragedy the title of romantic, Schiller intended to intimate, that he had purposely deviated from the truth of history and nature, in the conception of his principal character, whereas in his other plays he at least makes it his object, whether effectually or not, to conform to them. The distinction between the *romantic* and the *classical* in works of art, so much talked of at present on the continent of Europe, if it means any thing else than the difference, to which we have just alluded, between the *natural* and *unnatural*, or in a shorter phrase, the *good* and *bad*, we conceive to be wholly baseless, or founded on abstractions, that, when divested of the unintelligible jargon, in which they are commonly expressed, are either futile or absurd. Thus we are told by Mr Doering in the definition above quoted, that *the romantic is an infinite longing after the infinite;* and then, that *the antique is the infinite itself in a positive shape.* Why then, of course, by the rules of algebra, the romantic is an infinite longing after the antique; and yet the two qualities are at the same time placed in formal opposition to each other. Again; 'all modern works of art are necessarily romantic;' including, doubtless, those of Racine and Pope amongst others. What then becomes of the distinction between the romantic and the classical in modern works of art, which it is the precise object of the writers, who usually hold this language, to insist on?

We shall not, however, tire the reader's patience by any farther disquisitions on so plain a point, but proceed without delay to the close of our narrative. The reception given to the Maid of Orleans by the public was flattering to the author in the highest degree. Among other proofs of the general approbation, it is mentioned, that when the curtain fell at the end of the first act, during the first representation of this play upon the Leipsic stage, the building resounded with acclama-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

tions of 'Long live Frederic Schiller.' After the play was over, the whole audience crowded into the street to see the poet, upon his coming out of the house, and forming two long lines on the sides of the way, stood with uncovered heads till he had passed through. It is pleasing to see the most potent and public testimonials of success conferred, as in this case, upon real merit. At the same time, when we remark the uncertainty and capriciousness of the first decision of the literary public, when we see, for example, such romances as those of Mr D'Arlincourt passing through seven or eight editions in as many months, in such a place as Paris; when we learn that the farce, entitled Tom and Jerry, or Life in London, has been the most productive, and the School for Scandal the least so of the dramatic performances exhibited for many years upon the English stage, we are compelled to acknowledge, that such attestations of worth, however flattering at the time, are not, after all, the most certain and valuable.

We have had occasion in the course of this article to mention all the works of Schiller of any magnitude, with the exception of the Ghost Seer, a romance, of which the first volume only was published. In this work, as far as one can judge of it from a short fragment, the author intended to employ the same means of exciting interest, which were resorted to by our countryman Brown, who may possibly have taken some hints from Schiller, as he seems to have been acquainted with German literature. Besides the works we have mentioned, Schiller contributed a great number of fugitive pieces, in prose and verse, to a variety of literary journals, conducted by himself and others. Many of his shorter poems made their appearance in this way, and they are amongst the most highly finished and exquisite productions of the kind to be found in any language. The singular variety in the subjects and tones of them shows the extraordinary versatility of the author's genius. It would be difficult to point out a more animated serious lyric poem, than the Ode to Pleasure. The ballads, as for example, the Diver and Fridolin, are written with the most charming felicity of style. The Bell is quite an original poem, founded on an entirely new conception, wrought up and finished with extraordinary power and beauty in a few hundred lines. If a speculating bard of the present day had hit upon such a subject, he would have rung at least a dozen changes upon it through as

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

many cantos. There are even two or three very pleasing specimens of the comic style, for which, however, Schiller had in general but little taste. All these pieces are known by heart through the whole educated portion of the German nation, and if their author had never written any thing else, would have given him a lasting rank among the greatest poets that have ever lived. One of the least attractive to us of the minor poems, is the Walk, an Elegy, which the author himself mentions, in one of his letters above quoted, as among the very best of all his productions. The versification of this piece is imitated from the antique Hexameter and Pentameter, which to our taste has but little charm for the ear, even in German, where it succeeds better than in other modern languages.

The literary activity of Schiller continued undiminished up to the time of his death, which happened at Weimar, on the ninth of May 1805, after a short illness, at the age of five and forty. Occurring in the full maturity of his intellectual powers, and when his countrymen expected so much pleasure from their farther exercise, it excited a strong sensation through the whole of Germany. The theatre at Weimar was closed upon this occasion, and was reopened after a while by a representation of the Maid of Orleans, accompanied by a solemn funeral ceremony in honor of the author. The anniversary of his death has been observed ever since at the same place by a repetition of his tragedy of Wallenstein. He left a widow and five children. The following particulars are given by the biographer respecting his manners, person, and character :

'Schiller was tall and thin, though naturally of a powerful make. The activity of his mind had evidently checked the full development of his body. His face was pale, the expression of his eye mild and gentle ; his forehead high and open ; his cheeks hollow ; his chin a little projecting, and his hair reddish. His exterior was not very attractive. In walking, his looks were always bent downwards ; and he often passed his acquaintance without recognizing them, but when he perceived them, he greeted them with great kindness. In large companies, and especially at court, his manner was reserved and anxious. In the family circle, or among a few intimate friends, he was easy, cheerful, and talkative. He took particular pleasure in a literary society, which was formed at Weimar after he went to reside there, and of which Gœthe was one of the principal members. His disposition was eminently kind and friendly, and he felt for others as

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

warmly as for himself; often declaring, that he had no other wish than to see every body happy and contented.

'He was not fond of public and noisy amusements, and frequented no places of general resort, except the theatre; to which he was naturally much attached. He also took delight in instructing the actors. The rehearsals of the new pieces were regularly held either at his house or Gœthe's; and this circumstance often had a favorable influence on the talent of the players. Schiller's notions were very high in regard to good acting, and it was rather difficult to satisfy him. After the successful representation of any of his later dramatic works, he commonly gave an entertainment to the actors at the town-house, which passed off very pleasantly with songs, improvisations, and all sorts of gaiety.'

Having offered in the course of this article such critical remarks as had occurred to us upon the writings of Schiller, it will not be necessary to dwell any longer upon his poetical character. It is much to his honor, that all his writings are distinguished by a pure morality, and an elevated tone of thought and feeling. In making this remark, we mean, of course, to except the Robbers, for reasons, which we have already explained at length. Though not, strictly speaking, licentious, the moral of this play is certainly exceptionable.—The rest of his works, whether in prose or verse, are uniformly fitted to encourage the noblest and most amiable sentiments. Few poets of any country, who have flourished at advanced periods in the progress of civilization, deserve this praise to the same extent. His two great contemporaries, Gœthe and Wieland, for example, are by no means so pure as Schiller, though the tendency of their works is, in general, far from being absolutely vicious. In the infancy of letters and society, poetry speaks the language of the gods; but as luxury increases, it is too apt to leave its lofty heights and to dwell in preference on frivolous or sensual subjects. The most esteemed modern poets of England and France furnish many examples of the truth of this remark. It is therefore a great happiness for a nation, when a writer like Schiller, whose talents secure him an unbounded popularity and influence, has the grace to exert them uniformly in the great cause of virtue and human happiness. No compensation in the power of subjects or sovereigns to bestow can be too great for such deserts:

'Quæ tibi, quæ tali reddam pro carmine dona?'

We may say with safety, that the patent of nobility in the de-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

gree of baron, which the grand duke of Weimar *wrought out*, as the biographer expresses it, *auswirkte*, for Schiller, of his own mere motion, was not an extravagant reward, though intended doubtless as a high distinction.

ART. XXVI.—*Römische Geschichte, von B. G. Niebuhr.—Roman History, by B. G. Niebuhr.* 2 vols. 8vo, with two maps. Berlin, 1811 and 1812.

WE have several times, in the course of the last two or three years, made a passing allusion to this work; and propose at present to lay a short account of it before our readers. No full notice of it, that we know of, has been as yet submitted to the English or American public; and few publications afford more cause for reflection on the serious obstacles presented to the progress of knowledge, by the multiplicity of languages. The existence of four or five cultivated tongues, some of them radically different from each other, seems really, at times, to counterbalance all the facilities for communication, which the art of printing affords; and amidst all the improvements and triumphs of learning in modern days, it is humiliating to see so little concert subsisting between the minds of different nations, that the most important discoveries in literature may be made and acknowledged in one country, and remain unknown in another, separated perhaps only by a chain of mountains, a river, or a channel.

That this remark applies with great justice to the Roman history of Mr von Niebuhr, is true by general confession. Though it may sound like pedantry to talk of *discoveries* at this time of day, in such a department of study as Roman history; yet it is notwithstanding extremely analogous to the progress of the human mind in all other branches of investigation, that certain gross popular views, without probability and without foundation, should nevertheless from various causes acquire a general reception, and that their detection when made be entitled to the name of a discovery. This is the case of Mr Niebuhr's work on Roman history. Though not certainly the first author to call in question some of the popular errors in respect to this subject, he is the first who has pushed the test of a philosophical examination to its full extent; and the first also, whose learning and talents have given authority to specu-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

lations, which before his time were apt to be rejected as the vagaries of literary scepticism. For what had been done before Mr von Niebuhr in this way, and for a general hint at the value of what he has himself accomplished, we may quote a few sentences from the article on the early history of Rome, in the fifty-fourth number of the Quarterly Review:

'All, however, have not evinced the same degree of historic faith; some have openly revolted against these absurdities of tradition, and have expressed their scepticism in bold and decisive language. The question was discussed with vigor and even with acrimony, in the French Academy, about a century ago, and the chief combatants of the opposite parties, M. de Pouilly and the Abbé Sallier, in that arena, attacked and defended the authority of Dionysius, of Livy, and their followers. Amongst the late sceptics, M. Beaufort is perhaps the most able. In his dissertation on the uncertainty of the early Roman history, he skilfully combats the accounts, which have been transmitted to us, and arrives at a conclusion, which may perhaps startle our prejudices not a little, that nothing is more uncertain, than what we have received as the history of the first ages of Rome. M. Levesque, in his *Histoire critique de la République Romaine*, has also evinced a very reasonable degree of scepticism on this point.'———

'The subject has, however, been examined with the greatest accuracy by the literati of Germany. In that country several works have been published upon the historic period under our immediate consideration, which have attracted great and deserved attention. The most remarkable of these writers, for extent of learning and depth of reflection, is M. de Niebuhr, whose Roman history, though written in a style somewhat obscure, is likely, when generally known, to produce a great effect upon the reading and thinking part of the European community. His example has been, in part, followed, and his ideas developed by M. Wachsmuth, a professor at Halle, whose work displays much research and ingenuity.'

'We have thought it necessary to make these preliminary remarks, because we are persuaded, that the subject has not yet received that attention from the English reader, to which it is entitled. The works of de Niebuhr and Wachsmuth have hardly been mentioned in this country; and we can venture to affirm, that *not half a dozen persons* have read them; and almost as few entertain any scepticism on those points, the credibility of which is called in question. The tales instilled into us at school are retained and believed in manhood; and the rape of the Sabines, the combat of the Horatii, and the self-devotion of Curtius are as

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

little doubted as the landing of William the Conqueror, or the signing of the Great Charter.'

We have been led to make this extract, as a preparation for our own remarks on Mr von Niebuhr's work. Though it is 'on the reading and thinking part of the *European* community' only, that our brethren of the Quarterly anticipate a powerful effect from the perusal of his history, we hope it will not seem intrusive in an American journalist to review it; the rather, since—if this writer be correct in stating, that not half a dozen persons have read it in Great Britain—we feel pretty confident, that it has been as extensively read in this country as in England. We mention not this to the comparative credit of our own country, but as the misfortune, not to say disgrace, of both, that a work of such transcendent merit should have been for ten years published in a kindred tongue, and be yet so little known.

Mr von Niebuhr, who has received the title of Baron from the king of Prussia, is the nephew of the celebrated traveller in the east, of the same name. We have been informed, that the baron in early life was a clerk in the bank of Copenhagen, in which capacity he gave a proof of the almost miraculous power of his memory, by restoring, from recollection alone, the whole contents of a leaf in the bank ledger, which by accident or fraud had been lost. He was afterwards made a professor in the university at Berlin, and the work before us had its origin in the lectures, which he there delivered. Four years after the publication of these two volumes, which are all that has yet appeared, he was appointed by the king of Prussia resident minister at Rome, for the purpose of enabling him to pursue his studies in Roman history, to greater advantage, among the ruins of the ancient Roman capital. It was among these ruins, that Gibbon informs us he was himself inspired with the idea of writing the history of the decline and fall of the Roman empire. The mission of Mr von Niebuhr for an object like this, is one of the many judicious acts of literary patronage, which do honor to the present king of Prussia, and will entitle him to the charity of after ages, when the royal congresses and holy alliances, of which he is a member, will be forgotten, or remembered with disgust. On his way to Italy, in a visit of only two days at Verona, Mr von Niebuhr made the brilliant discovery of the rewritten manuscript of the institutions

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

of Gaius, of which we gave a particular account in our number for April 1821 ; and which, on the shelves of the Cathedral library, had escaped the well trained eye of Maffei, during the long life, which he passed in the neighborhood of that library. Nor have our author's researches been without success among the manuscripts of the Vatican. Several fragments of orations of Cicero have been discovered by him, since his residence at Rome ; where he occupies as a dwelling what remains of the theatre of Marcellus and forms the wall of the palace Orsini. Few situations can be imagined more enviable than that of a scholar, thus placed by the deserved liberality of his sovereign, in a situation for prosecuting his inquiries into the history of ancient nations, among the spots where still exist the best preserved ancient monuments and the richest modern collections. One cannot but look forward, with a keen interest to the remaining volumes of the history of Rome, written by Mr von Niebuhr, with the treasures of the Vatican within his reach, from the theatre of Marcellus, and within sight of the forum.

It was originally our author's intention, as he informs us in his preface, to publish his lectures as he delivered them, comprising the Roman history from the earliest periods to the downfall of the empire. On preparing them for the press, however, he was led to give them a more systematic form, and to remould them as a history of Rome, which he proposes only to bring down to the period where Gibbon begins, whose work he justly regards as filling up the department of Roman history from that point. With regard to the works of Beaufort and Levesque, mentioned in the extract we have given above from the Quarterly Review, as anticipating some of our author's speculations, we deem it just to quote his own words, as they appear in the preface :

'Of modern treatises on Roman history I have made no use, neither in my previous studies, nor in the preparation of my lectures. In this way, I have been spared the necessity of engaging in controversy, which the nature of my work rejected, and which in itself is of little advantage to learning, and well compensated by exact and faithful investigation. If the opinion advanced is shown to be true or most probable, there needs no particular refutation of the opposite doctrine. Where, however, as in the case of Beaufort's critical dissertation, similar investigations of others have lead to like results, it has been partly impossible, partly superfluous, to make a distinct appeal to their writings. I read

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the work of Beaufort for the first time, when the first volume of mine was advanced in the printing. And both in the remainder of the first and the whole of the second volume, whatever resemblance exists, is entirely matter of coincidence; so that he is to be regarded rather as my voucher, than predecessor. Nor was I earlier acquainted with the history of Levesque. Beaufort's investigations and doubts are there assumed. With the exception of them and the conjecture of the Etruscan origin of Rome, few points of resemblance will be found between our works.'

'Micale's history of ancient Italy has as little fulfilled my wishes, as it does justice to the advantages, which every Italian historian must possess over a transalpine, in this competition. His atlas, however, is highly valuable.'

We cannot but think, that our author has here expressed himself with too great severity of Micale's Italia avanti il dominio dei Romani, a work originally written at the instance of Napoleon, and handsomely rewarded by him. Though certainly inferior, in all points, to Mr von Niebuhr's work, it is still a learned and useful treatise. A slight notice of it, apparently from a French pen, in the January number of the New Monthly Magazine, has condemned it, on the score of want of authorities; a judgment, which sufficiently shews, that the critic, who pronounced it, had not read the book. A scholar like Niebuhr may really find it and have a right to pronounce it unsatisfactory. But a man must be well read in the Italian antiquities—and that too avanti i Romani—not to be instructed by Micale.

Though our author's object is the history of Rome, he prepares himself and his reader for this leading theme, by the inquiry into the tribes, who preceded the Romans in Italy. Vixere fortes ante Agamemnona—Romulus and Remus are but new comers on the Italian soil. To penetrate the darkness and fable, which obscure the origin of Rome, nothing, of course, can be more advantageous, than to collect, arrange, and estimate the traditions relative to earlier Italian tribes; so that at all events we may be saved from believing any thing relative to the Roman state, inconsistent with what we know of earlier communities in the same region. Our author thus expresses himself on this point, in the first chapter of his history:

'Rome, in the beginning of its history, is a very small district of Italy. The peculiarities, which distinguish the Roman people,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

were the inheritance of far greater races, to whom the Romans belonged, or from whom they borrowed these peculiarities, till from the union of these manifold parts, a new form arose, unlike to any individual Italian tribe. The primitive nations disappeared in the light of the city; and the commonwealth of citizens spread itself throughout Italy. As the republic sank, there were only Romans in the Italian peninsula; and all the historians, whose works are preserved, have uniformly represented the ancient Italic nations, not only as wholly distinct from the Romans, but as insignificant in comparison with them. It is some time since a different judgment began to be entertained; and although it is impossible to sketch a perfect picture of the nations, which attained to greatness in Italy before the Romans,—the accounts of some of which are wholly wanting, and of all highly defective, it is nevertheless universally thought necessary, as far as may be, to attempt a survey and a discrimination of the ancient races and tribes, and a collection of the historical traditions and accounts, that concern them.'

We are deceived, if even in these few observations the hand of the master be not visible. Though there be nothing original in the suggestion, that Livy and the other historians erroneously represent the Romans as a peculiar and distinct race, and exaggerate their importance at the expense of the well ascertained though almost forgotten greatness of the Umbri, the Etruscans, and other great Italian nations; yet no one had before deduced from this observation a new view of Roman antiquities, and a new method of studying them. If the Romans are not a race *sui generis*, but formed from other Italian tribes, and if these other tribes not only preceded the Romans in time, but were far more powerful, cultivated, and civilized, than Rome in her earlier stages, then we ought to begin our inquiries into Roman history, not with the fictions of Romulus and Remus, or the still grosser fables, which Virgil has immortalized, but we ought to begin with the oldest tribes, which history, tradition, analogy of language and institutions, and existing monuments enable us to trace on the Italian soil.

This is accordingly done by our author in the most masterly manner, in the following order, viz. the Œnotrii, the Ausonians, the Sabellians, the Tyrrenhians, Tuscans or Etruscans, the Umbri, Iapygia, the Greeks in Italy, the Ligurians and Veneti, and the inhabitants of the three Islands. All that the ancient authors teach relative to these different tribes and names is collected, weighed, and sifted; and if we are ready to com-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

plain, on the one hand, of the scanty traditions, which survive, of numerous and powerful races, we cannot but be surprised, on the other, at the great amount of information, which it is still in the power of industry and sagacity to extract out of the chronicles and fragments of chronicles. After the pure Italian tribes, which we have enumerated, our author treats of the Latins, the tradition of Æneas and the Trojans in Italy, and the city of Alba, and then passes to the great topic of Rome.

Among all the primitive tribes of Italy, none is treated by Mr von Niebuhr more at length, than the Etruscans, as none certainly is so well worthy the notice of the classical antiquary. His theory of the origin of Rome, as we shall presently see, attaches peculiar importance to this people; which on their own account also are well entitled to commemoration. In the etymological and philological controversy with respect to the language of the Etruscans, which has been agitated with such zeal from the discovery of the Eugubine tables in 1440 to the present day, our author takes no part, and he evidently looks with some sense of weariness upon it. His subject is equally remote from the consideration of their arts, in which as the reputed makers of the Etruscan vases, so called, (which are found almost exclusively in Campania, and are now universally admitted to be of Greek workmanship,) they have so proverbially enjoyed a reputation belonging to another people, and given a name to a fabric, which they did not possess. It is purely in a civil and historical light, that Mr von Niebuhr treats the Etruscans; and those, who may feel a degree of scepticism at the magnificent figure which they are made to play in Dempster's Etruria Regale, in the English Universal History, and in the work of Micale, will nevertheless feel safe in following our author, who has none of the partialities of a modern Italian, none of the Etrusco-mania of the present day. Few ancient nations are in truth a more curious topic of investigation. If our curiosity is excited to study the history of those few great political communities, Roman, Grecian, Egyptian, Persian, which gained a distinct name in the ancient world, it is scarcely less awakened to the fate of a people, like the Etruscans, who are *all but* entitled to a place in the great procession of nations, and who for centuries bid much fairer, than the Romans, to be the leading empire in the West. There was not a hut on one of the seven hills of Rome, at the time

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

that the Etruscans governed nearly the whole of Italy, on each side of the Apennines, and closed a long struggle with the Umbri, by taking three hundred of their cities. Nor were the Etruscans less powerful at sea, than at land. The Adriatic was so called from the Etruscan colony Adria; and therefore was known to the Greeks as the Tyrrhene or Tuscan sea. The Romans, on the other hand, gave this name to the Mediterranean; and as either sea was called by their name, both were traversed by their vessels of commerce and war. This widely extended power on land and at sea was swayed by a confederacy in some degree resembling our own. Twelve powerful cities—though the accounts are not constant in this number—situated chiefly between the Apennines and the Mediterranean sea, were united into a confederation, by which the other portions of Italy were governed as colonies and provinces. This confederation had its annual assembly in the city of Volturna in the temple of one of the national divinities, where sacrifices were performed in the name of the whole Etruscan nation. The main law of the confederacy was, that no single state should declare war or make peace without the general consent; and had this law been adhered to, it admits scarce a doubt, that the name of Romans would never have been heard of in the world. Each separate state of the confederacy was governed by a magistrate called *Lucumo*, who combined the offices of civil, military, and religious chief, giving to the government the sternest form of theocracy. The genius of their internal political organization may be seen in that of ancient Rome, which was imitated from it. The mass of the people was in subjection to an aristocracy, that claimed to be the depositary of the civil power and religious privileges. Notwithstanding this unhappy feature in their policy, which finally proved fatal to their independence and national existence, they had attained at the time the foundations of Rome were laid, a very high degree of cultivation and power. They were the masters of the Romans to a very late period in institutions, arts, and religious rites. The Roman youth, down to the sixth century of the city, were sent up into the cities of Etruria, to be initiated into their refinements; and plays in the Etruscan language were acted at Rome as late as the Augustan age. Before their power was broken by the conquests of the Romans, the Etruscans, from their two great emporiums, Adria, on the gulf that

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

bears its name, and Luni, on the Mediterranean sea, carried on a commerce of a very extensive character, and exchanged the arts and the fruits of their own country for the luxuries of the east. These were brought to Etruria; and thence, by a sacred road across the Alps, which it was made sacrilege to violate, the staples of Asiatic and Libyan commerce were circulated by the Etruscans, as far as Spain and Portugal. The Romans had cause to rue the establishment of this commerce. The Etruscans had commercial treaties with the Carthagenians, and the same road, which carried the Etruscan caravans across the Alps to Celtiberia, brought the armies of Hannibal by the opposite course into Italy.

It would afford us pleasure to lay before our readers a translation of the concluding pages of Mr von Niebuhr's remarks on this extraordinary people, did the brevity we are bound to study permit us. We shall venture only on the following extract:

'A fruitful soil, abounding in natural richness, gave full aliment to the commercial spirit in Etruria; and there was a period when this country formed the *depôt* for the trade between the sea, the rest of Italy, and the remotest barbarous nations, to which there led a sacred and safe commercial road across the Alps.* Enormous works, equal to those of the Egyptians, and which, wherever found, are of melancholy aspect, as they can be erected only under the tyranny of *castes* and priestcraft and by the slavery of the people, were erected among the Etruscans, over whom this tyranny bore sway. In the same style the Romans built under their kings; in the period of freedom it was impossible. The walls of Volterra, and many other of the chief Etruscan cities, which escaped being laboriously destroyed by the Romans, are still for the most part entire, consisting of gigantic masses of masonry. The views of them confer an indisputable worth on the work of Micale. The Etruscans were the teachers of the Romans in architecture; though possibly only like the Tyrians at Jerusalem, as artists in their employ. This was certainly the case with works of foundery and relief. Some of the ancient Etruscan buildings remind us, in a striking manner, of the monuments of the Aztecs. The mausoleum of the mythological Porsenna, of which Varro derived so fantastical a description from the domestic annals of the Etruscans, but of which also he must himself

'* As far as the Celtiberi. See the author περὶ θαυμ. ἀκουσμ. in Opp. Aristotel. p. 724, ed. Duval.' The present may serve as an example of the sagacity and happiness of our author's citations.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

have seen the ruins of all that ever really existed of it, contains the chief characteristics of the Mexican temple-pyramids. The monument of the Horatii, as it is called, still in existence, is also not unlike that of Porsenna, as Varro describes it: Pyramids upon a cube, or upon a pyramid highly truncated.'

Such of our readers, as may be curious to inquire farther into this famous but questionable work, may see the original description of Varro in the thirty-sixth book of Pliny's natural history, in the nineteenth chapter. A translation and commentary on the passage is given by the president du Brosses, in the thirty-fifth volume of the Academy of Inscriptions, and Mr Graves, in his Pyramidographia, has attempted a coarse drawing of it. Though writers seem disposed, with one consent, to pronounce the accounts of this monument to be fabulous, we confess we see nothing in them, which surpasses belief. The people, who were in the habit of building their common sewers in the style of the Cloaca Maxima, (for which work Livy informs us, that Tarquin sent for artists to all parts of Etruria,) may perhaps be believed to have erected the mausoleum of their most powerful and famous prince, in a style of magnificence like that which Varro has ascribed to the monument of Porsenna.

The tradition, if it deserve that name, of the arrival of Æneas and his Trojans in Italy, is the most popular of the common notions in regard to the origin of Rome. Every body reads Virgil, and that at a period before the mind is fortified with any other reading, or has acquired the principles of intellectual *perspective*, which enable it to distinguish what may be true from what must be fabulous. Our author thus expresses himself on this subject:

'This tradition is in itself intimately and inseparably woven into the whole mythical portion of the Roman history, which we are to separate indeed, but not to reject. It were an arrogant and indolent want of judgment, to leave this tradition unexamined, under pretence of its essential improbability, however great that might seem; as on the other hand it would be equally against the principles of historical investigation, to expect to attain to matter-of-fact certainty or high probability on the subject of such a tradition, while more than five hundred years elapse from its date before the twilight dawns on the Roman annals. The true subject of investigation is this:—Is the Trojan tradition ancient and native in Italy, or of Grecian origin, subsequently adopted by the Latins and Romans?'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

To the solution of this question, thus ingeniously placed on its true footing, Mr von Niebuhr applies all the power of his historical analysis; and he comes to the conclusion, that the tradition of the settlement of the Trojans in Italy is no ancient, firmly grounded, and generally circulated Greek tradition;—that it makes its first appearance in Greek poetry, in the Sicilian bards, who borrowed it, not from the elder national poets of their own tongue, but from the popular faith of those colonies in Sicily, which claimed an ancient affinity with the Latins;—and that it is therefore to be regarded as a purely ancient Latin tradition, no more capable of historical proof, than any other part of the national mythology of that tribe; but also by no means to be set down as a figment invented by flattering Greeks and adopted by credulous Romans of a late age.—*Having been led, at the close of his chapter on this subject, to* repeat the popular tradition, as it appears in Virgil, Mr von Niebuhr makes some remarks on the character of the Eneid and of its author, which we are fain to quote, as a specimen of high philosophical criticism:

'It is true, the subject of the Eneid was national, but it is scarce credible, that impartial Romans could have enjoyed a sincere pleasure in the narrative of the wars contained in the last six books. We feel but too sensibly how ill the poet succeeded in elevating these shadows, these uncharacterized names of ordinary barbarians, to the rank of living beings, like the heros of Homer. The problem perhaps did not admit of solution, at least for Virgil, whose genius was too poor for invention, however happy his talent in ornament. That he felt this himself, and did not disdain to be great in the manner for which he felt himself gifted, is proved in his imitations of others, as well as by his discontent with his own work, at a time when it had awakened universal admiration. He who labors with painful application on gathered materials is conscious of the chasms and hiatuses, which a diligent polish may conceal from the unpractised eye, but which find no place in the production of the master, who pours forth his work in one great casting. Doubtless Virgil had a foreboding himself, that all the foreign ornament, with which he had arrayed his work, was the richness of the poem and not of the poet; and that posterity would make the distinction. That in spite of this distressing consciousness, he nevertheless pursued the path marked out to him, and strove to impart to a poem, which he wrote by command, the highest beauty, which it was in his power to bestow upon it; that he did not vainly and falsely affect a genius,

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

which he did not possess; that he did not allow himself to be beguiled, when all around was proclaiming his apotheosis, and Propertius was exclaiming,

> Cedite Romani scriptores cedite Graji
> Nescio quid majus nascitur Iliade;

and that when death was emancipating him from the slavery of political allegiance, he gave orders to destroy that, which, at this solemn moment, he regarded with aversion, as matter of false fame; this entitles him to our respect, and to charity for the faults of his poem. The character of a first attempt is not always decisive; but Virgil's first youthful poem shows, that he formed himself with incredible diligence, and that no power was permitted by him to become extinct from neglect. How amiable and noble he was, appears best where he speaks from the heart; not only in his descriptions of agriculture and all his pictures of calm life,—in his epigram on Syron's villa; but still more when he calls forth in visionary procession those great spirits, which shed their lustre on the history of Rome.'

No part of Mr von Niebuhr's speculations is more curious, than that which regards the earliest establishment of the city of Rome. Justly looking on the account of Romulus as purely mythological, and at the same time rejecting all attempts to separate in it what is possible from what is marvellous; as if every part of an ancient political fable were true, which is not impossible; Mr von Niebuhr attempts only to offer, and that conjecturally, an hypothesis, that shall account for the phenomena, which authentic history discovers to us in the Roman state. He does it in the following manner, in a section entitled 'Conjectures on Rome before Tullus,' from which we make the following extract:

'I say not, that with Tullus Hostilius historical light shines in, but that till this period absolutely nothing historical exists, and that here the gray of the morning begins.

'The foundation of Rome—to what people the eternal city originally belonged—is precisely what we do not know. Nor is it less consonant with the eternity of Rome, that its origin be lost in the infinite, than it is in character to the dignity of the city to admit what the poets have sung of the birth and apotheosis of Romulus. Rome must needs be eternal, or founded by a god.

'From the tradition with respect to Tullus, much was transferred to Romulus—as throughout, from true history to the mythological. Instances of this are his death and the war of Fidenæ and Veii. It cannot, however, on this account, be said, that Tul-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

lus was the real founder of Rome, and mythologically called Romulus; for under Tullus the city already possessed age and strength; nor is the union with Alba a fable without foundation in historical truth.

'Every thing in Rome indicates an Etruscan origin. The whole ancient constitution was Etruscan, appointed by the sacred books of the Etruscan nation;* the leading numbers of the Etruscan notation, *three*, *ten*, and *twelve*, are visible in all primitive Roman institutions; even in the tradition of the number of the gates of the ancient city, which, according to the Etruscan usage, were three.† The whole Roman religion—from the service of the Capitol downward—is Etruscan. The Etruscan Lucumo, who received the name of Tarquin, would scarcely have been admitted in a purely Latin city, with the cordiality which the Roman patricians testified to him. The Etruscan nation, moreover, at this period was found on the left bank of the Tiber, toward Latium. Fidenæ was Etruscan; the name of Tusculum argues as much of that city; and the pure latinity of Gabii is extremely doubtful.

'On the other hand, the Sabines were, at the period assumed for the foundation of the city of Rome, and long after, moving powerfully onward in the stream of migration; and it has been already remarked, that in the middle of Latium, at a much later period, Sabine places are named. Such a Sabine settlement, by the side of the Etruscan city Rome, on the Capitoline and Quirinal hills, formed, as it appears, the city of Tatius. Thus Rome became a double city, like the Greek and Spanish Emporia, like Old and New Dantzic, like the three independent cities of Königsberg, whose walls touched each other, and from which wars between each other were waged. But before the time of Tullus, these two cities had coalesced into one state. Of the Sabine element many traces remained in the national religion and temples, in which Sabine deities were worshipped. These were all ascribed to Tatius; in like manner, as the Etruscan element was ascribed to Romulus.

'All this, however, is ante-historical, and before the period when the *latinity* of Rome begins. This dates from Tullus, in the union with Alba, which took place in his reign, and by the violent adoption of so many Latins under his successors; by which means the former inhabitants became amalgamated with them, and wholly Latin; and their original tongue became wholly unintelligible to posterity, like the songs of the Salii and Arvales, which may account for the destruction of all the historical monuments of the period.'

'* Festus, under *rituales libri*.'

'† Pliny's Natural History, iii. c. 9.'

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Such are Mr von Niebuhr's important conjectures as to the origin of Rome, though in thus detaching them from their context, we deprive them of not a little of the weight, which they derive from the previous introductory researches of their author. At the close of the second volume, he calls the attention of the reader to a curious discovery, made by occasion of the excavations in the Coliseum in 1812. Remains of Cyclopean walls were brought to light, in those excavations, beneath the present level of the earth's surface. This style of building belongs to no period since the usually adopted date of the city of Rome. It testifies to an era far more ancient, and to a race of builders, of which the tradition has vanished. The ancient Roman geography designated the region about a city by the word *ager*, and an adjective formed from the name of the place. Thus *ager Tusculanus* was the district about Tusculum; *ager Albanus*, the district about Alba. As these districts retained their names, though the cities were destroyed; the *ager Vaticanus*, on the right bank of the Tiber, refers perhaps to some city, to which it once belonged, some Vaticum or Vatica, of which the memory has wholly perished. Pliny informs us, that an oak was growing in the ager Vaticanus, to which was affixed, in letters of bronze, an Etruscan inscription older than the foundation of Rome.* Mr von Niebuhr would suggest the possibility, that these are indications of a city in this neighborhood, older than Rome, to which the Cyclopean walls discovered in the ruins of the Coliseum belonged. We know not whether it may justify a doubt of the value of this conjecture, that the ager Vaticanus is on the opposite side of the river from the ruins of the wall, and that in the limited extent of municipal bounds, at so early a period, it were scarcely to be expected, that the city should be on one side of the Tiber, and the *ager*, named from it, on the other.

We have thus brought our readers fairly into the main topic of Mr von Niebuhr's work. The remaining portion of the first volume and the whole of the second are characterized not less by a sagacious analysis of the historical traditions, than by a masterly sketch of the laws and institutions of Rome. If it cannot be said of Mr von Niebuhr, as of Calvin by judicious Hooker, that 'his bringing up was in the civil law,' he never-

* Pliny's Natural History, xvi. c. 87.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

theless possesses all that familiarity with it unavoidably acquired in the pursuit of Roman history at a German university ; and without which it is scarcely possible, that this history be understood. To this he has added the diligent perusal of all the ancient authors, Greek and Latin, and what is more valuable, than any of these qualifications, a good sense, of which the operations border sometimes on divination. We are told rightly, that ancient manners and institutions differed from our own, and that what is called by an equivalent name was often a different thing. Yielding to this canon, we are apt to adopt most fantastic absurdities, under the names of ancient laws and institutions, and surrender the common dictates of reason, for fear of sinning against authority. But the remedy of common sense and human analogy to be applied to this evil must be applied with a most cautious hand. Mere sagacious speculations on principles of human nature, however profound, are quite as apt to be wide of the truth, as the implicit admissions of the scholar ; and Mr von Niebuhr hesitates not to say of the Discorsi of Machiavelli, that though he always speculates ingeniously, it is often on facts, that have no existence. It is in happily drawing the line between the opposite errors now indicated, that our author has shown his unexampled skill. It is necessary only to read his chapters on the 'oldest constitution of Rome,' on the 'Uncial rate of interest,' and on the 'Secular Cycle,' to perceive the justice of this tribute.

We shall close this imperfect notice of his masterly work, with alluding to what he has written in it, on the subject of the agrarian law. So superficially has Roman history been studied, that till late years the opinion has universally prevailed, that the agrarian laws had for their object to enforce an equality of estates, and to prevent any individual from owning more than about three hundred and fifty acres of land. It need not be urged, what an effect such a law would have, particularly on an ancient community, where there was little commerce—no property in public stocks—scarce any manufactures ; and where land and slaves were almost the only species of property, which yielded a revenue. Under these circumstances, of course, an agrarian law, on the common interpretation, would have kept Rome in the state of the Jews under the judges, or of the Spartans under Lycurgus. Yet in full view of these consequences, and even with the express deduction of them, such men as Montesquieu

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

and Adam Smith have taken the popular view of the agrarian law. It may well weaken the confidence, with which we adopt any conclusions on the subject of ancient institutions, to find a writer so sagacious, so practical as the latter, in a work, that constitutes the very Pandects of political economy, espousing an error so gross, on a subject closely connected with that of his treatise. 'Rome, like most of the other ancient republics,' says he, 'was originally founded upon an agrarian law, which divided the public territory, in a certain proportion, among the different citizens, who composed the state. The course of human affairs, by marriage, by succession, by alienation, necessarily deranged this original division, and frequently threw the lands, which had been allotted for the maintenance of many families, into the possession of a single person. *To remedy this disorder, for such it was supposed to be, a law was made, restricting the quantity of land, which any citizen could possess, to five hundred jugera,—about three hundred and fifty English acres.* This law, however, though we read of its having been executed upon one or two occasions, was either neglected or evaded, and the inequality of fortunes went on continually increasing.'* It is difficult to conceive how such a view of the legislation of a people so advanced as the Romans could exist for a moment. The agrarian laws, as no one is ignorant, were a great subject of controversy among Patricians and Plebeians. But this monstrous fiction of a law would be as ruinous to one as to the other. Who can believe, that the great plebeian families, some of them as wealthy and as proud as the oldest patrician houses, would have been constantly urging a law, by virtue of which, if Titius, possessed of five hundred jugera, married Titia, possessed of the same, half their estates respectively became forfeited, alike if they were Plebeians or Patricians? The absurdity of the suggestion increases, when we add, that in republican Rome estates were equally divided between sons and daughters, and that the operation of the law for two or three generations would, of course, have been to reduce a family to beggary; the rather, as no child could acquire property for himself, while he was in the *patria potestas*.

Even our ingenious fellow-laborer in the Quarterly Review,

* Wealth of Nations, book iv. ch. vii. part i.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

who has ridiculed the credulity of his countrymen on several topics of ordinary belief, and who appeals to Mr von Niebuhr for sounder views, has fallen into the same difficulty, on the subject of the agrarian law, and appears wholly to have overlooked our author's chapter upon it:—'The utter impracticability of this scheme,' says our colleague, 'its total inconsistence with an advanced period of society; the obvious truth, that *if all were equal*, there would be no expansion of that spirit, which in the ornamental or necessary arts refines and civilizes life; the death blow put by such a law to one of the strongest desires of our nature,—that of improving our condition; these truths, though apparent on a very little reflection, made no impression on a people not yet sufficiently cultivated to comprehend their importance.'

To this last sentence the writer subjoins a note, for the sake of pointing out for disapprobation the following sentiment of Montesquieu:—'That it was *the equal division of lands*, which rendered Rome capable at first of rising from her depressed state.' With opinions like these, as universal as they are here confidently expressed, one cannot but reflect upon the facility of the learned, when we add, that most certainly no such law was ever thought of in Rome, no equal division of lands ever attempted or proposed, and that for any thing in the constitution or laws to the contrary, a Roman Patrician might, as many did, possess lands as broad, and tenants as many, as the duke of Bedford or the earl of Fitzwilliam. The importance of the vulgar error on this subject will form our excuse for a brief citation from Mr von Niebuhr's chapter upon it:

> 'It is not long since it was necessary, in every work not expressly designed for scholars, in order to prevent the most disastrous misconception, to prove with great care, that the agrarian laws of the tribunes interfered in no degree with private property in land. At the present day the accounts of the Gracchian commotions, compiled from Appian and Plutarch, are so generally understood, that we may assume, as well known, that no tribunitian agrarian law invaded this sacred right; and yet it is important to reflect how two great thinkers were led to form this false and terrific conception in Roman history.'

Mr von Niebuhr then proceeds to remark on the sentiments of Machiavelli and Montesquieu on this subject, and refers to

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

the passage of the former, which we have just quoted in the extract from the Quarterly Review.*

These renowned agrarian laws, then, the well known source of continual agitation, and the theme in modern times of so much declamation, concerned not landed estates, but public lands, commons, domains. They limited not the quantity of land, which the Roman citizen had a right to own and to cultivate, but the portion of the *public lands*, he had a right to take on lease from the state. The Roman Patrician was as free to buy of any one, who would sell, as the English or American citizen; but the arrogance of the nobles and the jealousy of the tribunes led to a series of laws limiting the quantity of the public domains, which any one might occupy on lease, to about three hundred and fifty acres.

In the earlier periods of the Roman state, before the growth of the plebeian order, and while the republic consisted of patricians and their clients, the public lands—particularly those acquired to great extent by conquest—were the property of the Patricians, who, in fact, were the state. By the Patricians they were leased to their clients, on a kind of feudal tenure.

* We do not know when the attention of the learned was first called to the true solution of the question relative to the nature of the agrarian laws; but it is scarcely possible, that it should have been proposed without immediately approving itself to the judicious. In the accounts given by Appian and Plutarch of the Gracchian seditions, and in the allusions of Cicero and others to the agrarian laws, the epithet *public* is almost invariably applied to the land proposed to be divided. Thus in the Epitome of Livy, l. lviii. the words of the law are given, ne quis *ex agro publico* plus D jugera possideret. As late as 1775, Bach, in his history of the civil law, follows the old notion of this law. *Hist. Jur. Rom.* p. 135. Schweighæuser, in his edition of Appian, in 1785, seems to have established the correct view of the subject, by shewing the true reading of the leading passage in Appian (*De Bello Civ.* i. 8.) to be Μηδένα ἔχειν τῆσδε τῆς γῆς πλέθρα πεντακοσίων πλείονα. The former editions of Appian omitted the τῆσδε, and it was restored by Schweighæuser on the authority of good manuscripts. Mr Hugo does not scruple to ascribe to this happy correction the chief effect, in correcting the public opinion on this subject (*Geschichte des Rœmischen Rechts*, p. 265;) but there are very many places in Appian and Plutarch, which needed no correction, and are equally decisive of the matter in hand. Thus in Plutarch, it is said of Octavius, the colleague of Gracchus, who opposed the latter in his attempts to procure the passage of the law, Ἐπεὶ δὲ ἐώρα τὸν Ὀκτάβιον ἐνεχόμενον τῷ νόμῳ καὶ κατέχοντα τῆς δημοσίας χώραν συχνήν, &c. The opposition of Scipio Nasica to the same law is thus accounted for by Plutarch: πλείστην γάρ ἐκέκτητο γῆν δημοσίαν, καὶ χαλεπῶς ἔφερεν ἐκβαίνειν αὐτῆς ἀναγκαζόμενος. *Plut. Op.* i. 829 and 830. We forbear to multiply these authorities, but the foregoing we have thought due to our readers, in support of a proposition, which, though familiar to the learned on the continent of Europe, has never, we believe, been maintained in England or America.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

In process of time the plebeian order grew in number, strength, and consequence; and the Cassian law was passed, bestowing on the Plebeians, *in fee*, small tracts of this *ager publicus*, while the Patricians, as before, received the greater portion of it. While the Patricians continued faithfully to observe this law, no disturbances arose. But with the growth of the population on the one side and the progress of luxury on the other, it was more and more the interest of the Patricians to keep the domains in their hands, and to defraud the Plebeians; and as the latter acquired power in the state, it was more and more their interest to limit the quantity of the *ager publicus*, which a Patrician could hold, and of course increase the portion to be divided in fee among the Plebeians. These struggles were constantly renewed till the Licinian law was enacted, on which all the subsequent agrarian laws were modelled, and of which our author enumerates the following as among the chief provisions:

'1. The public land of the Romans shall be ascertained in its limits. Portions of it, which have been encroached on by individuals, shall be restored to the state.

'2. Every estate in the public land not greater than this law allows, which has not been acquired by violence or fraud, and which is not on lease, shall be good against any third person.

'3. Every Roman citizen shall be competent to occupy a portion of newly acquired public land, within the limits prescribed by this law, provided this land be not divided by law among the citizens, nor granted to a colony.

'4. No one shall occupy of the public land more than five hundred jugera, nor pasture on the public commons more than a hundred head of large, nor more than five hundred head of small stock.

'5. Those who occupy the public land shall pay to the state the tithe of the produce of the field; the fifth of the produce of the fruit tree and the vineyard; and for every head of large stock ——, and every head of small stock ——, yearly.

'6. The public lands shall be farmed by the censors to those willing to take them on these terms. The funds hence arising to be applied to the pay of the army.'

The foregoing were the most important permanent provisions of the Licinian law; and for its immediate effect, it provided that all the public land occupied by individuals over five hundred jugera should be divided by lot in portions of seven jugera to the Plebeians.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Such is the substance of the renowned agrarian law. We need not say, that the simple statement of it dispels into thin air all the eloquent speculations, which have been made on a compulsory equality of estates at Rome, with which it had no connexion whatever. Nor will it escape the observation of practical readers, that the first use, which two thirds of the Plebeians would make of their seven acres, would be to sell them to their patrician neighbors, did the law grant them a power of alienation.

We must here take leave of this interesting subject and of Mr von Niebuhr's work. We feel how little justice we have been able to do it; and can only hope, that our remarks may draw the notice of our readers to a work destined, we are sure, to shed a broad light on the study of history, and to fill a large space in the attention of the reasoning and thinking part, not only of the 'European,' but of the American community.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED